Children anticipate new day care. See page 6

Hockey with a twist. See page 22

Niagara News

Vol. 25, No. 16 FREE Friday, April 21, 1995

NIAGARA COLLEGE of Applied Arts & Technology WELLAND CAMPUS LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE

St. Catharines okays NOTL campus

By WILL WEBSTER
Staff Writer

St. Catharines city council quashed a motion calling on the provincial government to stop construction of Niagara College's new Niagara-on-the-Lake (NOTL) campus April 17.

The motion, which was defeated 10-2, called on the next provincial government to "rescind the plan for this facility in NOTL and that more accessible and practical alternatives within the City of St. Catharines be considered."

Coun. Bruce Williamson made the motion with Coun. Joseph Cushner seconding.

In his presentation, Williamson said "needs and interests of St. Catharines students in this community are best served by a campus in this community."

A number of councillors spoke on the issue, including Brian McMullan who called it "sour grapes."

He said stopping construction of the $33.6-million, 18,000-square-metre campus would be economically harmful to the Niagara region and called for council to "maximize" the economic benefits of the new location.

Any construction delays could result in years of waiting, or loss of the project altogether, said McMullan. Groundbreaking is expected in June.

"This council and some of the city have been criticized by other municipalities for being very vocal . . ." said McMullan, "which we have a right to do, but when we lose we have sour grapes."

Coun. Bill Wiley also opposed the motion saying he believes "everything that could be done has been done and this motion would only serve to hurt."

Williamson has been fighting the plan to build in NOTL. He compared his recent request with the Ministry of Transportation's (MTO) downsizing and earlier told reporters, "it is never too late to say stop. . .irrespective of what level of government is paying for it." The new MTO building was downsized to accommodate moving some services to other communities.

"It is my job to protect the interests of the city," said Williamson during a short break.

Era ends as Blazetich ventures overseas

'I will miss my students,' historian says

By DEAN MICHEL
Staff Writer

In what has been called "the end of an era," Professor George Blazetich is retiring from teaching at Niagara College.

Blazetich, noted historian and lecturer, has been at the college for 26 years.

He has accepted a full-time position as an English-language teacher at the University of Budapest in Hungary.

Niagara College President John Saso, while recognizing Blazetich's contribution to the college, wishes his "good friend" well.

"He has been a good friend to Niagara College as a teacher and as an administrator. I'm happy for him because he will be able to pursue the things he wanted to do in Hungary."

Larry Taylor, director of Media and Design, says Blazetich's retirement marks "the end of an era."

"I am not sure you can find someone to do the things in a classroom the way he does. He is one of the most respected and best liked teachers at the college."

Blazetich says the decision to retire from Niagara College caused him many sleepless nights.

"Sometimes I wish I didn't like my job so much. It would have made this decision a lot easier. I really love my work here and I will miss my students."

With notes from Sarah Murrell

George Blazetich at work. See story page 7.
Photo by Ronald Duguay

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Niagara College mourns Rob Boc's death

'He'll always be tucked away in a corner of my heart'

By JASON CHASE
Staff Writer

Rob Boc has been found, but a question still remains. Why did he have to die so young?

On Saturday, April 8 at 9 p.m., his body was recovered from the Welland River near the Niagara Street overpass.

The 20-year-old Law and Security Administration program student disappeared during the early morning hours of Feb. 24.

"Rob was the type of boy who wasn't afraid to show how he felt, he loved life and he lived it to the fullest," said Judy Boc, Robbie's mother.

"He was very lovable, it shows by the type of people around him and the number of them at the funeral and service."

"I only had Robbie for 20 years, but those years will last a lifetime. His friends from school only knew him from September and they loved him, imagine if they had longer," said Judy.

"A sad event, especially when it is a young person. They are so full of life one minute, and the next the spark is gone," said Gene Maltais, a political science teacher at Niagara College and a teacher of Rob's.

"It was the sixth time I have attended a funeral for a student and each one gets harder to take," said Maltais. "My sincere condolences to Robbie Boc's family and many friends."

"Rob was really good guy and fun to hang around with, I'll miss that," said Brandee Carrey, 19, a first-year Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program student. "I thought he would come back, I just thought he needed to get away."

"We are relieved that he has been found, but it is unfortunate circumstances, I'm sure the family is relieved as well," said Staff Sgt. Shennan of the Welland division Niagara Regional Police (NRP).

"There's no more investigation into it (Boc's death), it's been concluded," said Shennan.

The cause of death was determined to be drowning, and foul play has been ruled out.

"His friends have been great and I want to thank all of the staff and students for their support," said Judy.

"He will always live, he'll always be tucked away in a corner of my heart," said Boc's grandmother, Loretta Marion.

Boc was buried on April 18 at Holy Cross Cemetery on Woodlawn Road in Welland.

HAPPENINGS AT NIAGARA

G.L.A.D. highlights students' contributions

Niagara College celebrates G.L.A.D.

By LEE-ANN AYRES
Staff Writer

Niagara College really appreciates its students.

The college hosted Greater Learners Appreciation Day (G.L.A.D.) on April 6 to honor its students' contribution to the college community.

The first of this annual event involved "all levels of faculty," says Brigitte Chiki, the college's director of student life and success.

"They are a small but enthusiastic group of people," says Chiki.

The event included activities like "Giveaway Alley," where more than 9,000 ballots were filled out to win prizes like Campus Store merchandise and a free parking permit for the 1996 fall term.

Nurses at the Mack campus in St. Catharines were greeted at the door by the staff and then surprised by a staff-served waffle lunch, special occasion cake, fresh flowers and a poem written by a faculty member.

At the Horticulture campus in St. Catharines, students were treated to a staff and student pizza luncheon.

At the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls, students were given free coffee, food specials, and for eight lucky Easter egg hunt winners, a cup of cappuccino served in style.

Students at the St. Catharines campus were entertained by faculty members dressed like Sylvester and Tweety. They participated in a game of "musical chairs" in a decked out cafeteria. The students also took part in a pre-arranged blue and white day, the school's colors.

Students at the Welland campus roamed the halls sampling goodies and other surprises in many offices and service areas. The campuswide Easter egg hunt was a "big hit." Technology students (by division) found the most eggs.

A coloring contest in the cafeteria brought out 50 of the college's best artists. Thirty-five of the college's best athletes competed for prizes in foul-shot, football throwing and other athletic tests-of-skill.

The After Hours Student Centre was filled with students who enjoyed free refreshments, while fellow classmates sang songs in the Karaoke competition. Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble were wandering the campus, greeting students and handing out candy.

All Winter '95 Continuing Education (CE) students were greeted by staff with a special message read by faculty. They were given a ballot for a draw on $100 CE gift certificate.

Chiki said the day was a "big" success. "The students were really surprised, and found the day enjoyable."

The grand-prize winner was Melanie Schmidt, a student in the Pharmacy Assistant program at the St. Catharines campus. Schmidt and three of her friends were expected to have lunch today with college President John Saso at Angelo's Italian Restaurant in Welland.

Winners can pick up their prizes at the Counselling Office at the Welland campus.

Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble greeted students at the Welland campus by handing out candy on G.L.A.D.
Photo by Ryan Barber

Pick up, clean up, recycle it

By SARAH MURRELL
Staff Writer

Niagara College students have been challenged to help keep the campus in good repair by President John Saso in response to a column in the April 7 edition of the Niagara News.

A column by staff writer Ron Crowley, 34, suggested maintenance and upkeep of existing buildings should be a priority before money is spent on new buildings and programs.

"I'd like to see the...students get involved, hold a contest for design ideas. Where the paint is peeling only needs fixing up but other areas could use more," said Crowley.

In response to the column Saso said, "with what we're spending, it will improve facilities for all students."

Saso said that renovation money for existing buildings isn't included with money for education. "It's always a battle to keep the buildings in good repair.

"I would challenge the students to do what they can by not littering and being more gentle."

Saso added he hopes the students have a "safe and happy summer. I hope the ability to get jobs this summer is better than last year."

Enrolment reduced by funding cuts

By LINDA MARCHIO
Staff Writer

Because of funding cuts by the Ontario Ministry of Health, one Niagara College program will find its enrolment reduced.

The Ambulance and Emergency Care program (AEC), whose enrolment three years ago was 118 students, is anticipating accepting only 55 applicants for the coming fall term, says Rick Chandler, program co-ordinator.

Chandler, 45, a full-time instructor in the program since 1984, and its co-ordinator since 1990, says cuts in health care by Ontario are responsible.

Chandler, a graduate of the AEC program, says four or five years ago about 90 per cent of his students found jobs after graduation. Now less than 20 per cent can expect to find jobs, he says.

There are several different types of ambulance services in the Niagara area. Some are operated by the ministry, some are administered by a hospital, and some are private firms. But all are funded by the province.

The Ministry of Health sets the standards and requirements for all ambulance services in the province. The regulating statute is the Ambulance Act of Ontario.

The AEC program is a one-year course of theory and practical skills and requires a "great deal" of physical stamina. It is preferable the student have previous related experience, such as lifeguarding, St. John's Ambulance volunteer or volunteer firefighter, says Chandler.

Aside from academic requirements, an applicant must pass a physical fitness test and have a personal interview with the teaching staff. They must possess a basic level CPR certificate, a first-aid certificate from the Canadian Heart Foundation and a class F driver's license. They are also required by the Ambulance Act of Ontario to show proof of immunization to certain communicable diseases and to have no criminal record.

Chandler says that maturity is a big factor in determining who will be successful in the AEC program. The student must deal with all types and ages of people in a variety of situations—sometimes high stress and emotional situations.

"Age doesn't always determine maturity," he says.

There will be some realignment of courses next year, he says, adding the clinical placement aspect will start earlier and there will be more frequent testing of practical skills.

At the end of the year, a "scenario format" will throw the students into situations where they have to use all their skills.

"By this time, use of equipment should have become second nature; you can't think about what to do with the equipment while you're trying to decide what you're going to do with the patient," he says.

"It is very important for the college to ensure that the student who graduates is proficient in their practical skills," Chandler says.

After successfully completing their college training, the student must then pass a registration exam for the province.

This is a full-day (six-hour) exam. It costs $250 to write and a student must receive 70 per cent to pass. Only then can someone work as a full-time ambulance officer.

Career opportunities might also exist in fire or police services, patient transfer services or in the first aid department of a large company, says Chandler.

Yet, jobs in these areas are also hard to find, he says.

Hike for Heart Niagara

By MELISSA REID
Staff Writer

Hikers, walkers and families are invited to take part in Heart Hike '95 on Saturday, April 29.

The event takes place at Queenston Heights Park in Niagara Falls. There are two trails to choose from.

The 15-km hike, starting at 8:30 a.m., begins at Queenston Park and goes to Fisherman's Park and back.

The six-km hike, starting at 10 a.m., follows the Queenston Interpretive Trail in Niagara Falls.

The starting times are separate so participants will finish about the same time.

Participation is based on a $10 minimum pledge. Event T-shirts will be awarded to anyone collecting $30 in pledge funds.

A pair of Terra Trekker hiking boots, donated by October Experience in Ridley Square in St. Catharines, will go to the top fund-raiser.

Heart Niagara is a non-profit group which provides coronary care programs to the Niagara Region. Programs focus on heart and health education and heart disease prevention.

The Bruce Trail Association is dedicated to the preservation of the Niagara Escarpment and securing a permanent route for the Bruce Trail.

The event will take place rain or shine.

Heart Niagara and the Niagara Bruce Trail Association are benefiting from this event.

For more information or to register call (905) 358-5552.

SAC FACTS

SAC to give warm welcome to walkers

By WILL WEBSTER
Staff Writer

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) is throwing its support behind the annual Welland-Niagara Falls portion of the Men Walking Against Male Violence march.

The Welland segment of the three-year-old march will be April 25 and feature a noon-hour refreshment pit-stop at the rear of the SAC building on the Welland campus.

"They are men and they're walking against violence," said SAC President Bren Biggs about the event. "So they're taking some responsibility."

SAC has alotted $250 for refreshment for the walkers, many of whom will be from local high schools. Biggs said it is important to get as many Niagara College students as possible involved in the event.

"The more students we can get out, the better it is for Niagara," she said.

The annual walk was started in Windsor in April 1992. Since then, it has spread to communities across Ontario. This year 24 individual walks will be held in 27 communities beginning in Wainfleet on April 23 and finishing in Midland on May 19.

Money raised during the male-organized march goes to financing support systems for the victims of male violence.

A press release, issued by walk organizers, calls upon men to break the "silence and complicity" and to end violence against women.

'As men we have been and continue to be, largely, criminally silent about our violence.'

"The increasing awareness of such violence has occurred due to the daily and ongoing work of women," said the press release. "As men, we have been and continue to be, largely, criminally silent about our violence."

Study results released by walk organizers say 78 per cent of women are physically abused by their male partners, while 66 per cent of men admit to using violence against their female partners. In the United States 1,900 women are raped every day.

"As men we must make these walks a political and organizational priority," read the press release. "We hope that men across this country will join us in that decision."

Students wishing to join the walk, or make a donation, can do so during the walk.

Dempsey brings experience and care to job

By WILL WEBSTER
Staff Writer

Newly-elected Niagara College Student Administrative Council (SAC) Vice-President Executive Paula Dempsey wants to get people involved in student government.

"I don't just want people to get involved in what I think they should get involved in," said Dempsey. "I want to get people involved in what they would like to see here."

When Dempsey attended a student representative meeting last year, she says she was shocked to find out how few student "reps" turned out. She made up her mind, then and there, to get involved.

"Only six or eight people showed up to that meeting," said the first-year Business Administration program student. "I thought to myself, this is why there is not much involvement. . .because all these people who have been elected to represent their individual group were not there."

The discussion at that meeting interested Dempsey and she discovered she had "strong feelings" on the issues raised.

"I thought that I could make a difference. That's what sparked me."

Shy and reserved, the "20-something" mother of two is not a typical politician. Deciding to get involved was not easy.

"I was scared to run," said Dempsey, who considered every option before choosing a position. "I wasn't sure. I really pondered it. I really wanted to be on SAC to make a difference in any capacity I could be. I didn't really care about my title."

In her new role, she says, she hopes to work closely with student reps. She says that improved communication between SAC and the reps will help encourage greater involvement of the entire student body. Dempsey questions why more students don't take part in "making this school better."

Class reps, she says, need to know they have a responsibility to attend council meetings and relay information they receive to their classmates. Encouraging this participation is what Dempsey sees as the major contribution she can make to SAC.

Along with encouraging more active involvement of students, Dempsey says, she wants to see SAC use more than posters for communication. During the election campaign, Dempsey said "posters don't cut it when it comes to communicating with students." Today, she qualifies that statement by saying she doesn't knock the use of posters.

'The biggest thing I bring to SAC is that I genuinely care about students'

"I think they should be clear. If you have something with a whole bunch of squiggles — it's very confusing, and if you have a bunch of shadows — it's too busy. One thing I propose is we change the format of the posters, make them simple, bold and big, and just say what it is. I believe in that, say what you want to say."

Among other ideas, Dempsey would like to see a speaker's board where students can post concerns and questions to which SAC would respond.

"The biggest thing I bring to SAC is that I genuinely do care about students," said Demspey. "I care about what they think. I care about what they want. And I want people to be successful.

"I don't have any actual government experience. I'm just a person... another student who cares, who is willing to add all this extra time on my schedule to care."

On a personal note, Dempsey says being on SAC will look good on her resume, and her business studies will come in handy.

"I like to be a team player. I like to put selfish desires out of it and let's bring in the college. Let's do things for the college and for the students here."

Dempsey is wary of criticizing the retiring SAC. She says she doesn't really know the people and has not been involved in executive meetings. However, she has some clear ideas approaching certain matters.

For example, she would "think long and hard" before taking any action to raise student fees. She says such a proposal would have to "definitely benefit the students."

Dempsey is married, has two daughters, three years and 16 months, and is a lifelong St. Catharines resident. Her husband works on the lake freighters.

"I like St. Catharines and I would like to stay there. It is a good place to bring up kids. We have a little house and we're happy."

PAULA DEMPSEY

STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN NOW!

GREET THE Men Against Violence Against Women WALKERS
Early Afternoon
TUESDAY, APRIL 25
BEHIND NIAGARA COLLEGE STUDENT CENTRE
If you are interested in participating in the walk, please see Bren in the SAC office

SAC Bits

By WILL WEBSTER
Staff Writer

• A $20,000 donation to the Learning Resource Centre was given the go-ahead by the Student Administrative Council (SAC) at its regular meeting on April 10. The money is earmarked for books, with $5,000 slated for books requested by students.

• Adam Richard's request to be paid $300 for work he performed as student representative was given the green light. The "monetary donation" is for duties between Jan. 2 and March 10. Among the jobs for which Adams will be rewarded: putting out suggestion boxes, condom distribution, and filling in as an extra team member during Wintercourse.

• Old and new SAC members met to review policy Wednesday, April 19. Among the policies reviewed were code of conduct, conflict of interest, breach of trust, in-camera sessions and dealing with the media.

• SAC turned down a request from 20 students to have a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation course paid for by the student government. The course costs $40 per person. About $59 of each student's SAC fee goes to student activities.

• Second-year Law and Security Administration program student Kim Foster, 19, is one of two new student representatives on SAC. A native of Waterdown, Ont., who lives in Welland during the school-year, Foster decided to join SAC because she was involved with high school government and "enjoys" it. She has attended every SAC meeting since her election.

• Second-year Broadcast, Radio, Television and Film program student Andrew Stewart is the other new student representative. Stewart has yet to attend a SAC meeting.

• Two persons will be hired, at $30 each, to hand out yearbooks at the graduation ceremonies in June. Many students never return to the college after graduation so SAC is ensuring they get their books.

• The SAC changeover conference will be April 28, 29, 30 at the Welland campus. There will be speakers and refreshments and a chance to meet incoming and retiring SAC members. SAC voted to extend $1,000 to cover costs for the event which features a pig roast afterwards at David Raplje's place.

EDITORIAL PAGE

The Niagara News is a practical lab for the **Journalism-Print** program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Ontario L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211/ 688-1380/ 384-9760/ 382-2383/ FAX (905) 788-3978.

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Stuck waiting to shine

We encompass part of Generation Stuck. Stuck between the baby boomers and the youthful computer-literate. Stuck waiting for our turn to shine. Stuck in the middle of a decade, 1995, bruised by recession, record unemployment and a $600 billion national debt.

Reminiscing over the past year we remember watching the white Ford Bronco zip along the L.A. freeway, imagining Woodstock II, three more days of peace and music, awaiting Finance Minister Paul Martin's budget and smiling when he announces no new hikes in income tax.

Sports fans were yelping over the loss of the big T.V. event the World Series, and were licking their wounds when the hockey season finally started.

Movie goers were stuck imitating **Forrest Gump**, "life is like a...", and whistling **The Lion King**'s *Can you Feel the Love Tonight*?

In coffee shops we bickered over gun control, hazing rituals, turbot fishing and ole' Newty Gingrich.

Looking back we realize that we were stuck watching it all on T.V.

Whether you're coming back to Niagara or heading out into the nine to five; if you're stuck remember: it's time for us to step up and become those faces we watch on T.V. Become those admired by the next generation.

Teresa Armstrong

Region benefits from casino

Current debate in the Niagara Region focuses on where to establish a casino. Fort Erie, Port Colborne and Niagara Falls are competing to be the fortunate location. It would be a wise move considering the Region has a large population of Americans to the east who will, unquestionably, be drawn to a Canadian casino because of non-taxation of winnings and the strong American dollar.

Many interest groups question whether the introduction of a casino will benefit their community. Advantages of regulated casino gambling in a community are tremendous. Given the nod by the provincial government, Windsor's move in establishing a casino has brought about many modifications to infrastructure. Roads that were in disrepair have been repaved, some widened, enabling smoother traffic flow. Obsolete railway lines have been redeveloped into attractive waterfront parkland.

To say casinos create crime is a myth. Recent studies in Windsor have shown a decline in crime since opening day.

Not only is revenue generated to rebuild local works but employment is created — look at the boost to Windsor's lagging economy.

Niagara Falls, and area, already attracts tourists from around the world. We question how long someone can watch water dropping hundreds of feet. Tourists should have another option to indulge their leisure time.

Ben Fisher

Have a super summer from the Niagara News

Letters to the editior

Disney ducks at G.L.A.D.

Dear Editor:

Great learners, great games, fun and food made the first Great Learners Appreciation Day (G.L.A.D.) a super event at the St. Catharines campus. Welcoming staff and students to the campus were two roaming Disney ducks who distributed rosters of activities. Niagara's blue and white colors were a theme for the day.

The main events took place in the blue and white balloon strewn cafeteria, while the Learning Resource Centre had free draws throughout the day. Raffles, music, a ball toss, dart and euchre tournaments, and a rousing musical chair contest marked the occasion.

Palates were pleased by staff donated baked goods and excellent breakfast and lunch specials prepared by Versa staff.

Many thanks to participants who gave their ideas, their time, and other contributions to the day. Kudos to Gail, Chris, Dominic, and Sandy from Physical Resources, whose special efforts made the day most enjoyable. See you all at G.L.A.D. in 1996!

Sandy Cornett, Chair
G.L.A.D. sub-committee
St. Catharines campus

Politicians need thick skin

By WILL WEBSTER
Staff Writer

Student administrators storming out of meetings after being criticized, calling security because they don't like the questions they are asked, writing personal attacks against students whose opinions they don't like, conducting in-camera sessions and removing directors; these are among the activities that our Student Administrative Council (SAC) engaged in this year.

Hopefully the new council will display a maturity that makes these activities a thing of the past.

When one runs for public office - be it the college council or federal parliament - he or she can expect to be criticized. People who run for public office believing they are not going to be criticized live in a dream world. Criticism is what democracy is all about.

If there was nothing to criticize, there would be no need of government. If we all agreed on everything, any candidate would do.

As far back as Rome, through the days the French Revolution to the present-day movements in Eastern Europe, the driving force of democracy has been the people's right to freedom of speech and opinion.

When people are elected to public office they have a mandate to listen to other people's opinions, whether they agree or not. When elected people stop listening the trouble begins. We need look no further than the current political misfortune of the Progressive Conservative Party of Canada to see just how big that trouble can be.

A government's ability to accept criticism and use it to formulate policy determines its success. When a government ignores criticism or responds with personal attacks or temper tantrums, it winds up ousted.

'Criticism is what democracy is all about'

Throughout the recent SAC election the sitting council was criticized for its "in-camera" sessions, financial secrecy, in-fighting, and its inability to respond to the concerns of students. Rather than hear these concerns council went on the defensive.

The critics may have been few in number, but they did represent a portion of the student population - a population the council had a mandate to represent. Those concerns should have been validated, not dismissed.

I hope that the new council will take a long look at how the old council did business. And when they are done looking at the old model, seek out a new one.

If they don't, one thing is certain. The next year will result in more of the same.

PERSPECTIVES

Social programs need revamping

By BEN FISHER
Staff Writer

Social programs must be completely revamped in order for Canada to be fiscally resonsible. Diane Francis, editor of the *Financial Post*, says "Canadians support one of the world's most over-governed and foolishly generous welfare states." Laurent Thibault, former president of Canadian Manufacturers' Association, backs up Francis's statement by saying " . . . 60 per cent of program spending is tied up in statutory programs."

The human instinct to succeed is lacking in some individuals.

Survival is also a factor in the human world when in comparison to the animal kingdom. The desire to succeed replaces the need to survive in the human kingdom. As opposed to other vertebrates humans can control their standard of living.

Liberal thinkers constantly suffer from verbal diarrhea when the words "business" and "taxes" are mentioned in the same phrase. There is however, one common denominator in all equations of life — **money**.

Liberal thinkers are under the delusion that "the so-called affluent" must pay more tax.

It is grossly unfair to centre out industry. Business owners assume all financial risks and ultimately stimulate growth through employment. As opposed to workers, business people pay into several government programs from which they are not entitled to collect. Consequently, industry often questions why additional tax should be levied.

There are no excuses for not implementing a workfare program to replace the current welfare system. The idea of menial labor may compel some to seek other means of support. For those who have a conscience, and a will to succeed, subsidized day-care centres exist, as do Ontario Student Assistance Program, jobsOntario and continuing education programs.

The redundant argument raised by many Canadians "What about the single mother with three children?" cannot be substantiated. Humans are a direct reflection of their parents. With this in mind consider the following statistic provided by *The Globe and Mail*: about one third of people in the Toronto area who grew up on welfare eventually turned to welfare as a sole means of income.

Laziness is the problem with people who decide to live off of government programs. Certain people are convinced they have a moral right to rely on society for an income. Consequently, this group repeatedly demands that higher income earners dole out more money.

In my opinion these people are a parasite feeding on the body of society. They should get out, get jobs, and start to contribute to the whole of Canada.

Strange happenings draw attention

By TERESA ARMSTRONG
Staff Writer

Today in news of the ludricrous we touch on Captain Hook dads, penial implants, snakes in erotic places and the Copenhagen cat.

Case No. 1:

Dr. Lips, the insecurity surgeon

Briefing: To surprise his wife, a lounge singer underwent penis-enlargement surgery. Under the knife of Dr. Lips the patient bled to death. Lips wasn't equipped to handle the patient who wore a pacemaker.

Verdict: Dr. Lips was sentenced to five years in prison and quite a story to tell the inmates.

Case No. 2:

Erogenous reptiles

Briefing: Customs officials in Sweden found 65 baby grass snakes in a woman's bra and six lizards crawling leisurely around under her blouse.

Verdict: She was prosecuted for smuggling; her dream of running a reptile farm was shattered.

Case No. 3:

The Copenhagen cat

Briefing: A woman in Denmark was certain her cat was dead when she received a phone call that her cat was recovered by an animal group- 11 years later.

Verdict: Here kitty, kitty, kitty.

Case No. 4:

Slip of the knife

Briefing: A man in Miami whose leg was to be amputated because of gangrene was in shock when the surgeon amputated his good left leg, just below the knee, instead of his infected right leg.

Verdict: One word-MALPRACTICE.

Case No. 5:

Captain Hook of the '90s

Briefing: A father of a 15-year-old girl forced her boyfriend to walk the plank after finding him naked and hiding in the closet. The 23-year-old male was pushed at knife-point off a fifth-floor balcony, he could not walk for months after the incident.

Verdict: The pirate-obsessed dad was sentenced to 15 months in jail, and his daughter hasn't had a date since.

Case No. 6:

Taxi with a twist

Briefing: A Stockholm taxi driver was charged with billing a woman $8,300, tax included, for 25 interludes in which the driver provided sexual services for the woman who longed for physical love.

Verdict: The cabbie was found guilty of exploiting the woman's needs. He will likely exit the taxi business and set up a delivery service.

Virus infects the English language?

By DEAN MICHEL
Staff Writer

A strange virus infects the English language. It is irritating. It is dangerous. It is highly contagious.

I do not refer to obscenity or slang. Rather, I point to the regular appearance of the implied question mark to end a spoken sentence. Academics label the oral question mark as uptalk. Does this sound familiar?

"I would like to speak to you today on the virtues of submarine sandwiches? These luncheon favorites are available throughout the cafes of North America? A typical sub consists of assorted cold cuts? a 12-inch bun? and several vegetables?"

The speaker ends each statement with a rising voice inflection as if to infer a question. Similar to a 45-year-old in a mosh pit, the question mark bewilders and offends because it is noticeably out of place.

Although several theories exist to explain the origins of uptalk, I prefer to blame the Valley Girls. You remember them: "Like, I went to the beach? And then I met these surfers? And, like, I just had to say 'gag me with a spoon?'"

Robert Fulford, former *Saturday Night* editor, and current columnist for *The Globe and Mail*, says uptalk is "technology based."

He writes: "In their early days, phone answering machines were emotionally destablizing, an invititation to insecurity. Owners of the machines began screening calls by listening as they came in, then sometimes picking up the phone in mid-message when they wanted to deal with the call right away. After a while people leaving messages didn't know whether they were being taped or auditioned. So they developed a timid, insecure style."

James Gorman, the New York University journalism teacher who first named uptalk, suggests "that it reflects the lack of shared knowledge in contemporary society." He says knowledge in today's world is specialized and fragmented. As a result, speakers unconsciously use uptalk to confirm a listener's comprehension by seeking agreement.

The theories may differ but the message about uptalk is clear. It's just a little annoying? Like, the users of uptalk cannot be taken seriously?

Summer jobs hard to find

By DAVE JOHNSTONE
Staff Writer

Suffice it to say, someday the sun will go supernova, we'll all die, and McDonald's will go out of business. Until then, sit back, have a cup of java, and watch the world go 'round.

If this sounds rather Bohemian, consider the summer ahead for most college students. We are supposed to be the 'future' of society. We are supposed to represent the best that we can be in order to bring about a change in the world. We are supposed to be working (for those of you that have a summer job, read no further).

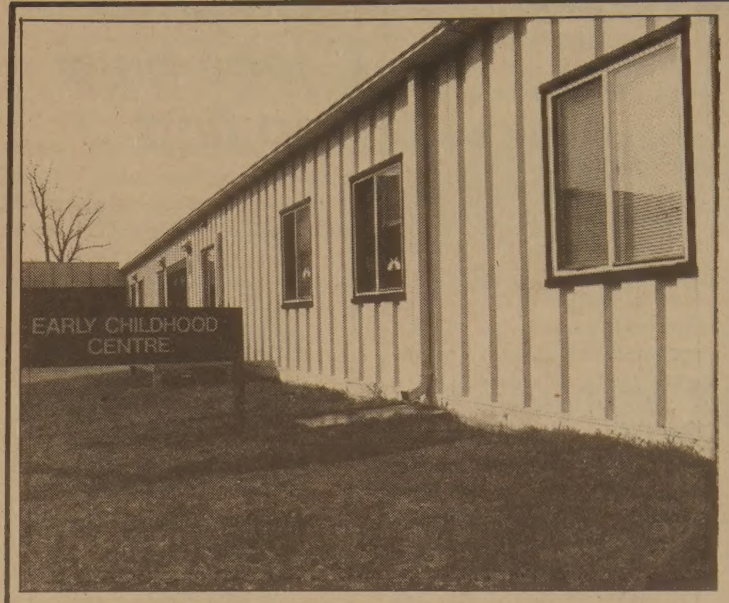
I have a complaint (and believe me, I usually do). I've been looking for a summer job *since January and have had no* luck. Whether it's the fact that I am severely in debt and employers check this out or the fact that I just don't appear to fit the current anorexic arobic starvation style diet that fits most students. It comes down to the basic equation (which I believe Murphy, the father of all gloom and doom philosophies dumped off in an attempt to seem somewhat positive) that when you don't need the cash, jobs are plentiful, but when you're so broke you can't even afford to pay attention, well, too bad.

I have decided to spend my summer fresh air inspecting at the local beach. At least I'll be able to let my mind drift, learn how not to be so pessimistic about life and laugh at all the people that have to dress up in really dorky outfits and work at hotdog stands (I do know for a fact that polyester in July can be hot).

If I end up ingesting one too many beach chili-dogs, and can't quite make it back next year to take the flack this column will generate, I wish you all the best in your summer 'holidays'. Ha suckers.

Have a great summer

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



The Early Childhood Centre is currently located in the Brant Annex at Niagara College's Welland campus. It has been used as a day-care centre since 1969. That section of the campus was once hailed as Canada's first, all-steel college structure.
Photo by Ron Crowley

The new day-care centre is taking shape and is progressing on schedule. The centre should be operating this September.
Photo by Ron Crowley

Out with the old . . . In with the new

By RON CROWLEY
Staff Writer

The roof is on and the windows are in at the new day-care centre on the grounds of Niagara College's Welland campus.

The $1.2 million-facility is slated to be completed in June. When finished, it will provide day care for up to 85 children, down from 100 in the original proposal. The decrease was a result of budget restraints, said Pat Eversden, centre manager.

The centre has allocated 10 spaces for infants, 35 for toddlers and 40 for preschool. It will be necessary to hire six additional staff when capacity is reached and when the staff-child ratio is set by the province, said Eversden.

Staff and students could be occupying the centre Aug. 1. Hiring additional staff will be evaluated once the number of children registered is confirmed, said Eversden. There are 10 full-time staff, one part time and a manager at the existing centre.

The 8,900-square-foot building west of Hennepin Hall, on the corner of Woodlawn and Rice Road, replaces the present day-care centre in the Brant annex, which is in need of repair.

The centre works in partnership with Welland Preschool Services for children with special needs. "We are an integrated centre, which means we accept children with handicaps or special needs," said Eversden. "They provide us with support staff and resources so we can better serve those children. This centre will definitely be accessible for special needs children," she said.

Welland Preschool Services is part of the Welland District Association for Community Living. The preschool offices are in a portable behind the existing centre. They are moving into the future centre and will "share" facilities in a continuing partnership, which began in 1984, said Eversden.

The day-care centre also serves as a learning environment for Early Childhood Education (ECE) program students. "It appears to be running ahead of schedule," says Allison Sauve, ECE co-ordinator, when asked about the centre's progress.

New day-care centre will provide more space

By RON CROWLEY
Staff Writer

Finding child care can be a major stumbling block for a parent wanting to further their education.

Niagara College has offered child-care services for students and the public since 1969. Known as the Early Childhood Centre, it offered a half-day program for children from ages two to five, said Pat Eversden, centre manager.

Margaret Hamilton supervised the implementation of the program when it first started. It was developed to provide a practical lab for Early Childhood Education (ECE) students, said Eversden.

She said the centre now provides care for children ages three months to five years. Over 70 per cent of the children enrolled in the day-care centre, have a parent attending the college.

The new centre will increase the number of children accepted, however, there are already waiting lists, said Eversden.

"People are enquiring for September availability."

Students wanting their child to attend the college's day-care centre will have "quite a process to follow," said Eversden.

"It's not simply registering and the child starts the next day."

Eversden said the first thing a student should do to is to fill out an application and bring it in. From there, they are immediately placed on a waiting list.

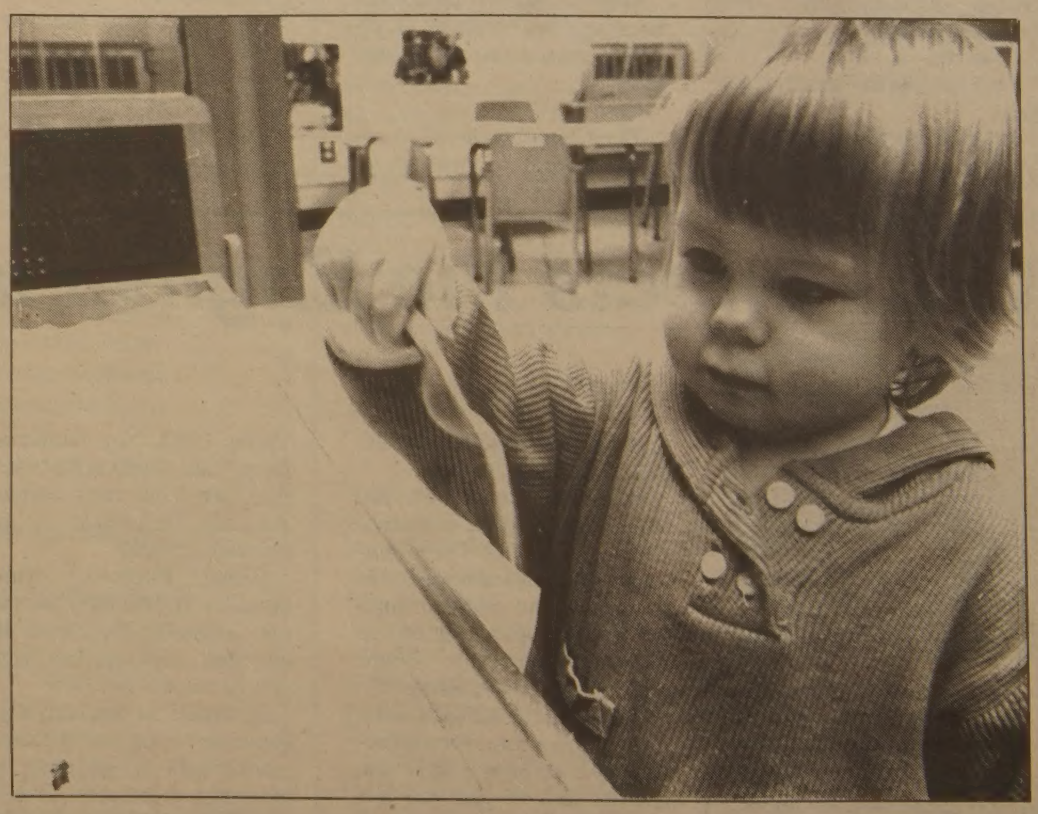
'I would like to please everyone,' Pat Eversden

An income-maintenance study is done in order to assess subsidy eligibility and the amount the student would qualify to receive.

Once the subsidy arrangements are made, a meeting is arranged to familiarize the child to the centre.

"At that time I go through the parent handbook and do an orientation," said Eversden, adding she wants to let students know, "waiting lists are deceiving." Even though the centre's list is lengthy, many students are on a number of waiting lists in the region and applicants shouldn't get discouraged, she said.

For Eversden, a graduate of the ECE program, the "lack of space" can be frustrating, but overall the smiles of the children make the day. "I would like to please everyone, but you only have so many spaces," said Eversden.



Seventeen-month-old Jamie is too late to help in the digging of the new centre, but with a little practice maybe she can help with the student residence. Her mom is a student in the Early Childhood Education program at the college.
Photo by Ron Crowley

TEACHER FEATURES

College professor leaving for Hungary

By DEAN MICHEL
Staff Writer

Professor George Blazetich has retired from Niagara College. He has accepted a full-time position teaching conversational English and grammar at Hungary's University of Budapest. He leaves Canada on June 12 for holidays in Europe and will be starting his new job in September.

Why are you retiring and making the move to Hungary?

Several reasons: I am at retirement age and the way my pension works, it is not economically viable for me to be sitting in this college teaching. My accountant makes that decision. Yet financial concerns are not my sole reason. More importantly, I love to travel. I love other cultures. I love their restaurants, museums, battlefields, theatres, and concerts in Vienna.

How long do you anticipate going?

I would say I have an indefinite contract. The university will want me as long as I can stay. I have concluded that there is no reason for coming back here except to visit.

What will you miss the most about teaching at Niagara College?

My students. And I will miss how good the college has been to me. Foremost it's my students whom I am going to miss. I would have gone a year ago if it had not been for my students.

Will you be changing your approach to teaching?

I certainly will not be a mass lecturer. Whereas here that is basically what I am. There it will be mostly small group activity. I will be teaching senior students who have had English for many years. They would like to have the mid-Atlantic idiom and dialect — the way Americans and Canadians speak as opposed to the way the British speak.

What kind of lifestyle changes will you be forced to make?

Oh boy! I'm going to miss my car. I really like going fast and I like my car's luxuries.

To have a car in Budapest means it's going to be dinged, stolen — guaranteed stolen — in three months. And gasoline costs $10 a gallon or some damned thing. Why should I have a car when cabs and transit are so cheap?

Compare/contrast the attitude of Eastern European students to those in Canada. Are the distinctions easy to make?

Absolutely. Eastern European students are far more serious and far more structured. They have a better foundation and they know their grammar cold.

GEORGE BLAZETICH
Photo by Ronald Duguay

Grammar is not easy. Grammar is difficult to teach because it is potentially boring. You have to be a scintillating teacher to make it exciting.

I like to think that I can make anything exciting because I don't think a good teacher is a good teacher in one discipline.

It's got nothing to do with content. It's all form.

In your opinion, why do Eastern European students approach education with such seriousness?

In Eastern Europe, jobs are scarce, tuition is high and if you don't get your schooling, you get nothing. School is very important in an old-time traditional sense. Another reason why the students there are more serious has got to be because these people have been through several wars.

Their parents have seen and experienced bombings; they have been through wars, there's war going on all around them, and they have seen death. This leads to a kind of sadness and seriousness that life is brief, life is temporary and an attitude of 'get what you can, get it right, and don't screw around.'

In Canada I don't think we have ever been pushed to the wall. To us, war is, what, a 10-second clip on the TV news? For a number of cultural and socio-economic reasons, they are a far more serious people in Eastern Europe.

Will you visit Sarajevo?

Oooh, I don't know. I've been there and the last time I was there I was very scared. I won't go unless it is a little more peaceful than it is now. To go to Sarajevo is taking a big chance and I think I took some bad chances the last time I was there.

I do plan to vacation in Croatia this summer and maybe if I meet some Croatian soldiers I'll follow behind them but I don't think I'll make a point of going to Sarajevo.

Discuss freedom as the concept applies to you.

This is interesting. All our lives, what do we do here? We get married, we get a big fat mortgage, we buy cars — we become car poor, we're all car poor and owe the bank. We become trapped. They may as well put you in a cage.

I raised my kids and now for the first time my kids are not dependent on me. I have no wife — I have an ex-wife. My car is leased and I rent an apartment. I don't owe the bank anything — so I'm free.

The realization hits me — my God, I'm free.

Nobody really cares about me, I'm no longer accountable to anybody. The heavy part about all that is that the freedom is so utter, it's so complete that it's a little bit scary.

Although I prefer the situation I am in now to being trapped, freedom can be onerous. True freedom can be a burden because there is no one to answer to. I am now the arbiter of all my plans.

Did a particular event or person help make your decison to retire from Niagara College and move to Hungary?

Here's a big thing: I don't accept my chronology comfortably. I know I am older than I was but I tend to resist it. Sometimes I get to thinking like a 30-year-old. But I'm not 30 anymore. I've got to think in terms of the age that I am and that is middle aged.

In fact, a Hungarian contact visited me over the past Christmas holidays. I was asking her whether I should go, seeing what kind of job I could get, measuring my lifestyle, looking at money.

She listened patiently and the day before leaving she said, "You are asking the wrong questions."

She told me that I have 10 to 15 good years of life left, if I'm lucky.

She said the question should be: What do I want to do with the last 10 or 15 years of my life? That is the question.

I quit right there. That was it, I made up my mind. It was the turning point.

Future designs presented

By SUZANNE ROBERTS
Staff Writer

Architechtural designs of the future were presented by third-year Interior Design program students, April 12-13, in the Tecumseh Room at the Welland Campus.

Ron Patrick, Interior Design program co-ordinator, says the projects are evaluated by 10 jurors who are interior designers from Toronto and the Niagara Region.

Patrick says interior planning, wall and fabric finishes, lighting and conformity to the building code were some of the elements of design jurors considered in the evaluation process.

Grimsby resident Pam Shaw, 22, presented a design for an intergenerational retirement home and daycare called Harmony Manor to be located in Port Dalhousie. Shaw says Harmony Manor appeals to the senses of the elderly and children who both like primary colors and similar textures.

The building, which would house old and young, is an unusual concept. Shaw says she is aware of only one intergenerational building in Ontario, located in North Hampton.

Other than exposure to jurors and designers, Chris Onyschuk, 22, of St. Catharines, says a student's presentation can lead to a possible job referral as his did.

Onyschuk created a plan for a 40-officer OPP detachment for Tobermory, Ont. He took the plans of the Lock 3 Viewing Museum in St. Catharines as a base for his design.

During his presentation, Onyschuk said he wished to create a building that would bring the public relations officers of Tobermory and the Ojebiwai together. The majority of government funding for the building would be spent in its public areas rather than its officers' areas. He says he hopes "to create a place that brings the police down to a more human level."

Scott Perry, of the Global Group of furniture companies of Toronto and a juror, said he was impressed congratulating instructors and students.

Retirees honored

By JOHN ROUSSEL
Staff Writer

A banquet will be held in June to honor those who are retiring from Niagara College.

The third annual retirement banquet will be held at the Americana Resort an Lundy's Lane in Niagara Falls on June 16 at 6 p.m.

The banquet is to "honor everyone equally" said Elvira Lucas, a co-chair of the Niagara College retirement committee. Staff, faculty and administration are welcome.

"It is an oppurtunity to have some fun and meet people you haven't met before," said Peter Rylander, Niagara's athletic co-ordinator and also co-chair of the committee.

In past years, attendance was about 200 people, but this year organizers would like to see about 300 people attend the banquet.

Members of the retirement committee pay a $12 yearly fee, which goes to gifts for the retirees. Tickets cost $40 for non-members, $34 for members and past retirees. Tickets can be purchased from Marlene Cain at Room 23 in Hennepin Hall or at ext. 7548.

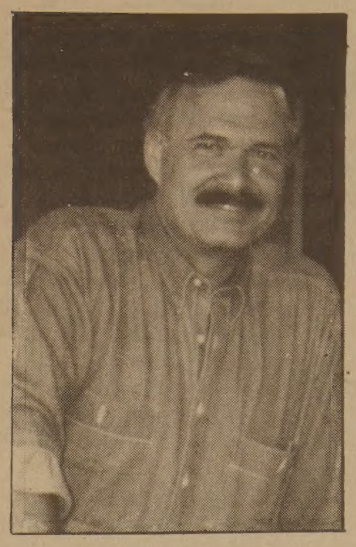
"I'll miss the people, not the work," said Lucas, who is retiring this year from the Social Services department.

The others to be honored at the banquet are John Muggeridge from the English department, George Blazetich from the General Education and Advanced Studies department, Dorthy Doyle from the Counselling department, Michael Curcumilli from the Technology department, Vince Andibert from the Buisness department and Pasquale Calvello from the Maintenance department.

Remember to have lockers empty by May 26

THE FALLS FILES

Mayor owes long political career to rats



Wayne Thomson is a fixture at City Hall. He has served as alderman for 10 years and sat in the mayor's chair for nine.

Photo by Willy Noiles

By DEAN MICHEL
Staff Writer

Niagara Falls, Ontario's mayor indirectly owes his long municipal politics career to the honeymoon capital's rat problem over 20 years ago.

Wayne Thomson, 55, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, served as mayor of Niagara Falls for nine years. Before occupying the mayor's office, he served as an alderman on city council for 10 years. Yet, at one time he "had little or no interest in politics."

Thomson is a former assistant director of the Niagara Region Health Department. More than 20 years ago he was leading a team of inspectors to clean up a "severe" rodent problem at a Niagara Falls salvage yard. As a result of the orders Thomson issued to the property's owner, he was attacked on a professional and personal level by one of the city's aldermen.

"Out of this criticism, I got interested in what was going on at city hall," recalls Thomson. "I had tremendous background with my own work to be a competent and knowledgeable person on city council."

As well as working in public health, Thomson also worked in Ottawa in 1971 as a special assistant to Joe Green, the federal minister of energy, mines, and resources. It was during this exposure to Parliament's inner workings that Thomson developed a liking for his political hero, Pierre Trudeau.

"I admired his intelligence and his ability to be immune from special interest groups and other pressures. He is certainly financially independent and had a lot of good qualities which made him a good leader."

Thomson admits supporting both Liberals and Conservatives in the past. However, he says he is not aligned with a political party because it may affect his support at the local level.

Thomson says he owes his success in politics to his "willingness to serve people and to listen to their concerns." He adds his job as mayor is not limited to the time he spends at city hall. He says it is not unusual for him to receive phone calls "at any time of the day or night."

Thomson is married to his second wife and has three children from a previous marriage. He says public life is a "tremendous sacrifice for the family." He adds he appreciates the support of his wife, the most important person in his life.

Thomson says he enjoys taking holidays in Florida as well as pursuing activities to promote physical fitness. He says his dream car is a black Porsche 911. Thomson says he also likes to watch professional boxing and hopes to travel to Italy some day.

"I don't have a lot of time for recreation and other activities, but the key thing is, I enjoy what I do. It's something that is not onerous for me and I don't mind doing it. I enjoy people...my upbringing and background have made me a patient and tolerant person."

Asked about his political future, Thomson says he will be seeking another term as mayor in 1997. He says he rules out participation in federal politics because he cannot speak French. Yet he leaves the door open for a possible entrance into the provincial political arena.

"I've given it a lot of thought but I am not enamored by federal or provincial politics. However, in the future I may feel it's time to get out of the local level and I may consider it."

There's no place like home

By RONALD DUGUAY
Staff Writer

On Sunday, April 23, be off to see "The Wizard of Oz" and boost funding for multiple sclerosis (MS).

The Super Cities Walk for MS starts at 9:30 a.m. at the Optimist Park Club in Niagara Falls (Dorchester and Morrison). Registration for the walk is at 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m., followed by the opening ceremonies.

The pre-registration date is Saturday, April 22 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Belinda Yorke, fund-raising chairperson for the event, says "We want to turn Optimist Park into Kansas, Oz and the Emerald City. There will even be munchkins."

She says she wants to see everyone walk down the Yellow Brick Road.

Wayne Thomson, mayor of Niagara Falls, says the walk will "clearly be a community event."

"Not only is the mayor the first spokesperson for the event, he is also pledging," says Yorke.

Food and beverages will be provided by Red Lobster and Tim Horton's.

Part of the walk takes place in St. Catharines.

Leona McKay, committee member for the Super Cities Walk, says there are three different walk lengths in St. Catharines: five km, 10 km and 20 km. They all start at the Lions Club in Port Dalhousie.

Start times are 8 a.m. for the 20 km, 9 a.m. for the 10 km and 9:45 a.m. for the five km walks.

Food and beverages will be supplied by Zehrs Foods and Pillar's Meats.

"At the end of the walk, a barbecue will be held at the Lions Club for all participants," says McKay.

Anyone interested in participating in either walk can pick up a pledge book at the MS office at 125 Welland Ave., in St. Catharines.

Half of the proceeds from the walks will be used locally to help people with multiple sclerosis, and the other half will be used for research, says McKay.

"We'd like to show everyone that there really is no place like home," Yorke says.

For more information on the event, contact Yorke at (905) 358-0645 or McKay at (905) 687-9123.

Licence to strip

By RONALD DUGUAY
Staff Writer

Exotic dancers, entertainment parlor owners and managers may require licences to operate; the bare minimum fee would be $300.

Wendy Southall, manager of the Regional Municipality of Niagara Police Services Board, addressed Niagara Falls city council April 11 with respect to an adult entertainment bylaw.

"You are the first municipality we've approached. We will be seeking input from five other municipalities in the region," said Southall.

She said the bylaw would only be passed if all six municipalities agreed.

One objective of the proposed bylaw would be to prevent minors from working in adult entertainment parlors.

Licences would be issued to personnel in that industry.

The proposed licences would cost the parlor owners $3,000, managers $1,000 and entertainers $300.

All licences would be non-transferable, but could be used regionally for work purposes, she said. *For dancers to obtain their licences,* proof of age would be required.

Although the legal age to enter an adult entertainment parlor is 19, dancers and servers may work in the clubs at 18.

"The Police Services Board's licensing department currently has the infrastructure to license on a regional basis," says the proposed bylaw.

"We have no authority to issue licences through the Municipal Act, therefore, we have no authority to revoke licences," said Southall.

The Police Services Board also has no control over penalty fees, she said.

"Those fees are set by the provincial government."

Recreation complex proposed for city

By RONALD DUGUAY
Staff Writer

A mere $15 million is all it takes to get a recreation and sports facility in your town.

Murray Beynon, a consultant for Stadium Consultants International Inc. (SCI) of Toronto, attended a Niagara Falls city council meeting on March 27 proposing the construction of a new recreation and sports complex in the city.

Beynon said a new facility is needed in Niagara Falls.

Events at the complex would include ice sports, ice-skating shows, circuses and concerts.

"I'm convinced Niagara Falls will get a facility like this in the next four years," Beynon said.

"It's a money maker. The city could capitalize on the tourist dollar."

SCI, which specializes in general consulting in physical and financial planning, is no stranger to large projects.

They have done consulting for projects such as the Barrie Arena in Molson Park, the Windsor Family Entertainment and Sports Complex and the Oshawa Entertainment and Sports Complex, said Beynon.

"The Niagara Falls complex would be a major spectator facility," he said.

There would be 6,000 seats available for hockey games, but 8,000 seats would be available for concerts.

Of the $15 million needed to build the facility, $7 million would come from the private sector and $8 million from different levels of government, Beynon said.

Along with SCI's proposal to city council came a proposal from the YMCA in Niagara Falls.

Ed Nieuwesteeg, chair of the YMCA board of directors, asked for the city's help in building a new facility in Niagara Falls.

"We regard Niagara Falls as our partner," said Nieuwesteeg."We support people of all religious, social and ethnic backgrounds."

In 1991, there were about 1,000 members at the Niagara Falls YMCA, but membership has grown to 2,850 members in 1995.

"The YMCA encourages everyone to participate. In excess of 500 men, women and children are subsidized because of the inability to pay," said a press release.

Nieuwesteeg said the YMCA would need a minimum of $400,000 for operating costs in the next three years.

"One of our options would be to do nothing," he said. "To maintain our status quo, we'd have to close the Y down in the next five years."

Wayne Thomson, mayor of Niagara Falls, said the city helps the YMCA with financial support of about $100,000 a year.

Niagara Falls Councillor Shirley Fisher said she wants the new facility built in Chippawa.

"We have great potential in Chippawa," she said.

One major issue is the need for more ice surfaces.

Thomson said the Stamford Figure Skating Club has increased its membership from 400 skaters to more than 1,000 skaters in the last two years.

"The need for more ice space is crucial," he said.

John MacDonald, director of community services in Niagara Falls, said they (community services staff) are always turning away organizers of hockey tournaments because there's no ice space available.

Thomson said he wants the proposals referred back to the city's staff to obtain more details.

Nieuwesteeg said they (YMCA) enjoyed the help from the city.

He thanked the volunteers for their dedication and commitment to the YMCA.

"They are the reason we are here to make this proposal.

"The YMCA has touched the hearts of many in this community," he said.

Spring convocation ceremonies set

By MARK FERENCE
Staff Writer

Graduation ceremonies are just around the corner.

There will be three spring convocation ceremonies held at Welland Centennial Secondary School, 240 Thorold Rd. A reception will follow each ceremony at After Hours at the Welland campus.

The spring convocations are open to students who finish their programs before April 28, and complete all graduation requirements no later than May 19.

There will be a graduation ceremony on Thursday, May 4 at 7 p.m.; at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls for Culinary Skills and Hotel and Restaurant Administration (Co-op) graduates.

On June 13 at 7 p.m., the following programs will have their ceremonies: Financial Management, Business-Accounting, Business-Retail Management, Office Administration-Executive, Business Administration-Accounting, Business Administration-Accounting (Co-op), Business Administration-Human Resources Management (Co-op), Business Administration-Operations Management (Co-op), International Trade, General Arts and Science, Nursing and part-time certificate programs.

On June 14 at 7 p.m., the following programs will have their ceremonies: Early Childhood Education, Educational Resources and Special Needs, Garde Educative a l'Enfance, Human Relations, Law and Security Administration, Legal Assistant (Co-op), Recreational Leadership, Social Service Worker and Administration De Bureau-Billingue General.

On June 15 at 7 p.m., the following programs will have their ceremonies: Environmental Management, Horticultural Technician, Journalism-Print, Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film, Interior Design, Visual and Creative Arts-Design, Electronics/Communications, Instrumentation Mechanic, Computer Programmer, Electrical Engineering Technician, Electronics Engineering Technician, Industrial Engineering Technician-Quality Control, Business Administration-Information Systems, Computer Engineering Technology, Construction Engineering Technology-Architecture, Electrical Engineering Technology, Electronics Engineering Technology, Manufacturing Engineering Technology and Mechanical Engineering Technology.

There will be a fall convocation for students finishing their programs prior to Aug. 25, and having completed all graduation requirements no later than Sept. 22.

The location of these ceremonies will be announced at a later date.

On Oct. 19, the following programs will have their ceremonies: College Vocational, Ambulance and Emergency Care, Dental Assistant, Dental Office Administration, General Arts and Science-Health Science Preparatory Option, Medical Transcriptionist-Health Records, Pharmacy Assistant, Health Records Technician, Dental Hygiene, Business-Accounting (Co-op), Part-time Certificate Programs, Practical Nurse, Soins Infirmiers Auxiliaries, Nursing and Industrial Engineering Technology-Quality Control.

Graduates are reminded to arrive 15 minutes early to the scheduled start in order to pick up a gown and join a processional line.

School plan not binding on Liberals

By WILLY NOILES
Staff Writer

Although Ontario Liberals agree with the Royal Commission on Learning, they "don't feel bound by any of the timelines Minister of Education and Training Dave Cooke has set."

Liberal education critic Charles Beer (York Mackenzie MPP) says the Royal Commission is "a good piece of work...(which) captured the general mood of the province."

Beer says the Liberals would move ahead with some of the announcements made by the New Democrat government. But if things need improvement, Beer says a Liberal government would take the time to ensure they are implemented properly.

Beer says his position is "that the changes we make are going to make the system better, if not, don't do it."

The creation of an evaluation agency for teachers can "play a very useful role," Beer says, but involvement of "the professionals on the front line"—teachers—is necessary for any changes to work.

Having an arms-length agency from the government that would develop an expertise in the needs and wants of the teachers and students in the classroom is important, Beer says.

If any government excludes teachers in their educational reforms, "it's not going to work," he says.

One recommendation by the Royal Commission that would affect colleges and universities is the cancellation of Grade 13. But Beer says other isssues need to be studied before considering cancellation of Grade 13.

"My judgment is (the current high school system) prepares most students for post secondary, but not all," he says. What needs to be changed in the high school system, he says, are the courses for average students.

"In general, we have a good system, a fine system."

While many of the Royal Commission's recommendations could make the system better, Beer says, the one question that needs to be asked is, "what is all of this going to cost?"

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Have a great summer from the Niagara News

Career Services offer opportunities

By SARAH MURRELL
Staff Writer

With the end of the winter term approaching, some students may want to take advantage of Niagara College's Career Services.

Career Services is in the Tecumseh Extension of Welland campus. There is a co-operative education liaison officer who helps with graduate employment at the Hospitality and Tourism Centre in Niagara Falls.

Janet Forfar, Career Services officer, says "half the focus is on getting the student ready so that they're successful when they apply and another part is to try to get employers interested in students, to provide any assistance, that's basically what we're here for."

Career Services "offers help with part-time and summer employment as well as with graduate employment," says Forfar.

"There is a registration service for graduates so we can continue to help them after they leave campus. It is easy to post a job when they are here and have them see it but after they leave it is possible they are still job hunting so we . . . match up the employers with the grad resumes and send them out.

"We post and advertise any part-time and summer jobs that come in and any government programs. We handle information and applications and we have a resource centre which we share with Co-operative Education. That resource centre has books, company information and videos, all related to job search and any research people might want to do," says Forfar.

"We also give resume and interview assistance," says Forfar. "So if you want to spruce up your resume, if it's just not selling you right or if you wanted some individual help with your resume, we do that. If you have an interview, if you want some advice or you want to talk about it, before or after, we do that on an individual basis too."

Forfar says the clerical staff at reception run a resume printing service at a charge to students and there is also a fax machine.

'Students need to prepare themselves' Janet Forfar

Most of the jobs Career Services find are within the Niagara Region because of the way the college system is set up, says Forfar. "It's logical that someone in Barrie would call Georgian College. Every college has career services in some shape or form, they don't all provide exactly the same things."

Forfar says she goes into classrooms of every graduating class and talks about the service. "I'm anxious that anybody who wants to use it can use it and knows it's here."

A lot of students use the service but it is hard to track the success rate because students do find jobs on their own, through postings or through agencies. "Grads use all different routes and we encourage them to. In today's market, they have to look all different ways," says Forfar.

"We do have some success. We do have employers that come back because they are pleased with Niagara grads. We are achieving some of our goals."

Aside from Career Services at Niagara there are other places students can look for help in finding a job such as job search clubs and private agencies. Forfar says she "would caution students about agencies that charge a fee. Agencies usually charge the employer, not the job seeker."

The federal government is planning to create 44,500 summer jobs for students. "The federal government has focused money and to have access, students should be registering with the Canada Employment Centre for students," says Forfar. Career Services has also provided booklets for students interested in the jobsOntario programs.

Forfar says "students need to prepare themselves with a good attitude, confidence in their skills, a good resume, interview skills, and knowledge of themselves. If they approach their job search with any less than that . . . they may miss opportunities."

New dental courses extend nurses' studies

By BEN FISHER
Staff Writer

Healing Arts Radiation Protection Branch (HARP) wants dental nurses to have extended duties.

The James Sim Institute (JSI) agrees on this and plans to provide courses for registered nurses in oral surgery.

Annette Schulz, development officer of JSI, says the institute wants "to train nurses in oral surgery to take X-rays."

The course, from this July 10 to July 14, will acquaint students with principles and applications directly involved in the exposure, processing and mounting of dental X-rays.

Niagara College offers dental professionals greater knowledge

By BEN FISHER
Staff Writer

The James Sim Institute (JSI) courses, offered through Niagara College, aim to give dental professionals in the area greater knowledge in their field.

JSI offered two programs over the Winter 1995 series. The programs offer dentists and their assistants, a hands-on approach to dental procedures.

The Royal College of Dental Services mandates that dentists perform 90 credits of class study over three years. Most courses offered are approved for credit hours by Royal College. However, some courses, such as business management, are not approved.

JSI is offering a course Oct. 13 on the Science of Occlusion (how people bite and chew). JSI estimates 100 dentists will attend.

The course's focus is on proper organization of occlusal elements to obtain stable treatment of orthodontic and restorative cases.

Science of Occlusion is instructed by Dr. William H. McHorris, who graduated from the University of Tennessee's College of Dentistry in 1964.

McHorris has an active practice in Memphis, Tenn., and is director and clinician for 37 study groups worldwide.

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LRC encourages students to participate in book drive

By PAULINE POSTILL
Staff Writer

Niagara College students are encouraged to participate in a book-drive campaign to help the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) next year.

The purpose of the drive is to encourage students to donate used books to the LRC.

Evelyn Bauer, a second-year Journalism-Print program student, suggested the idea to college President John Saso at a Board of Governors meeting on Oct. 17, 1994.

"I read an ad in the Niagara News from Saso asking for ideas and comments on how to make Niagara College better," said Bauer.

"I decided on this idea because I was frustrated and upset with the lack of books and information that our LRC has.

"I hope that people won't throw away their books, but donate them to the college," she said.

Niagara College has five campuses to which books can be distributed. Trish Labonte, head librarian at the Welland campus, said the Welland Rotary Club is also accepting book donations.

"We would like to outline specific curriculum areas, if you have a book from the last five years on a topic, we would take it as a donation," said Labonte.

EVELYN BAUER

'We would like to promote the fact that we do accept donated books' Trish Labonte

"We would like to promote the fact that we do accept donated books."

Bauer received an award for her contributions to student life at Niagara.

She will be donating her books to the LRC at the end of her co-op placement this month.

"I think as a student, Niagara has given me so many things that it's time to give something back," said Bauer.

STUDENT PROFILES

Student film, Less Manly takes top honors

'It reflects Harris' oddball sensibility'

By TERESA ARMSTRONG
Staff Writer

Noel Harris is a combination of "oddball sensibility," "resolve and determination," and Newfoundland wit.

Harris, 33, is a second-year Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program student. His film **Less Manly** was selected first overall by fellow second-year film students to be made into a 20-minute feature film.

Harris moved to Ontario last year from St. John's, Nfld., to pursue a career in film-making.

"His cultural background shows through in the eccentric view of the world," says Andrew Stevenson, Film and Script-Writing teacher.

Harris says Newfoundland has an identity crisis and that flows through in the film.

Less Manly is a "dark comedy" based on a call-girl named Judy who is trying to get out of the business and go straight. In an act of self-defense she kills her boss, Monte Manly, and with the help of her "weak-willed" compatriot, she stuffs the body in the trunk of the car and takes off on a journey which changes Judy from a "vulnerable" call-girl into a strong woman determined to go straight.

"The best quote I've ever heard was it is Thelma and Louise meets Goodfellows," says Harris. He has never seen either film.

Stevenson says the script is "highly original, amusing and well-written." He says it's a fresh twist to a classic situation.

"It reflects Noel's oddball sensibility," Stevenson says.

The $7,000 film was written in October, pitched for production Feb. 2 and today the cast of seven and crew of nine are about a quarter way through filming.

Harris says none of the characters are a reflection of himself. He says they are bits and pieces of people he knows and he has made a character out of them.

"The characters are drawn from people I've met throughout my life."

Harris picked two women to share the spotlight because he says it is not often you see a female in the lead role, "and two females at that."

"I don't feel it's right for anyone to be put down or stopped in what they want to do, women haven't been given a fair shake," Harris says.

Harris says a successful director has total artistic control over the film. Secondly, the director is organized, "so everyone is on the same pace."

"Directing requires a lot of experience and Noel has a remarkable capacity to pick it up," Stevenson says. "He is a great communicator."

Harris says he does not consider himself a film-maker yet, just a student. He says he has "resolve and determination" and "there is nothing else I want to do."

Although there is no formal screening at the college, **Less Manly** will be entered in the annual Telefest broadcasting festival in Toronto. The festival is open to the best BRTF student projects. Last year Niagara College film student, Paul Gardner, won for best film drama.

Harris says he would like his fellow film students to see the first screening because they are the ones that voted for it.

"Their support meant a lot to me."

Student attributes success to college

'I didn't want to get lost in the shuffle at a big university'

By LORI LACOMBE
Staff Writer

Twenty-four-year-old Niagara College graduate Rob Paladichuk, 24, of Stratford, Ont., is a success.

A native of Niagara Falls, Paladichuk opted for college instead of university because he wanted the "one-on-one environment" college offers. He was a student in the Mechanical Engineering Technology program.

"I didn't want to get lost in the shuffle at a big university and college offered me the hands-on experience that I was looking for. Money was also a factor. Going away to university is far more expensive than going to a local college."

Paladichuk said Niagara's engineering course was a good choice for him because it combined problem-solving with a "hands-on" approach to learning. The four-year course includes co-operative work terms so the students can put into practice what they've learned.

Paladichuk has worked his co-ops at Nels, Inc. and Myer Salit for the first three years of his program. Both companies are in Niagara Falls. His last co-op job, at Thona, Inc., turned into a full-time position for him. He had worked there for two years when he received a job offer from Standard Products, a company based in Mitchell, Ont. The increase in salary and advancement in position inspired him to accept the offer.

"I've been here for a year and it's a great job. My title is senior tooling engineer and I take care of a lot of the manufacturing concepts in the company," said Paladichuk.

He's the youngest person in the engineering department, but said he had to prove himself "in an adequate amount of time before I received respect from my colleagues."

He also said although he was almost "fresh out of college", he didn't sense any animosity from anyone in the company.

"I was lucky to get this position because now our hiring policy is to not even look at applications from people who've just finished college."

Paladichuk said his job offers him a lot of opportunities he wouldn't have gotten otherwise. He has been with the company for a year and already he's been sent on work-related trips overseas to France, and in North America to the state of Indiana, Kansas City, Mo., Detroit, Mich., and Chicago, Ill. He said he stayed in Paris, France for three weeks during March and it was almost like a vacation.

"My job is good in the sense that I keep learning and advancing. I would like to get more money, but I can't complain about what I make now."

When asked if he would attribute his success to going to college instead of university, Paladichuk said yes.

"College is great for the practical experience it offers. My advice to students who have just finished school, is to be patient with the job market. If you're in a co-op, don't necessarily go for the money; look for the full-time job prospects. If you prove yourself, everything will fall into place from there."

LASA student makes difference

Student predicts spring election for province

By PATRICIA MALLAIS
Staff Writer

Get involved, only you can make a difference. This is the philosophy of one Niagara College student.

Robert Rutherford, 20, of St. Catharines, is a first-year Law and Administration Security student who has gotten involved in local politics.

He is the deputy chair for Frank Sheehan's campaign in the upcoming provincial election. Sheehan is the Progressive Conservative candidate for St. Catharines and West Lincoln.

Student encourages fellow students to get involved, and vote in upcoming provincial election

Rutherford, is somewhat of a veteran to politics having worked on five campaigns since starting at age 15, including his cousin's, Peter Partington, a Niagara Regional councillor.

Rutherford says this (campaign) is the largest to date.

He says the position was offered to him by Alf Lorenzi, the campaign chair, after seeing some of the work he had done on other campaigns.

Rutherford says he spends between 25 and 30 hours a week working on the campaign, delegating responsibilities and overseeing just about everything.

Undecided about a career in politics at first, it was a hobby but it's getting more personal now that possible errors in government "are going to be coming out of my pocket," he says. He hopes the name he has made for himself along campaign trails will help him with future job opportunities.

He says he wants to encourage students to get involved and to vote in what he predicts will be a spring election.

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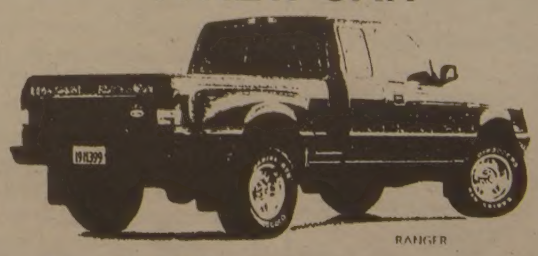
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CD REVIEWS

Beatles covers are contrived, polished

By WILL WEBSTER
Staff Writer

One word kept coming to mind as I listened to "*come together-America salutes the Beatles.*" Contrived.

This country-fried distortion of the Liverpool quartet's better known pop tunes, performed by top-flight country stars, is at best elevator material.

I love the Beatles, ever since I watched them cross the Rainbow Bridge in 1964, but one too many times I've heard their songs dished out like powdered pudding.

From **David Ball's** sluggish rendition of *I'll Follow the Sun*, through **Tanya Tucker's** passionless *Something*, to **Kris Kristofferson's** ambivilent *Paperback Writer*, this CD is nauseous.

With producers Jerry Crutchfield, Don Was, Michael Omartian and Kyle Lehning in tow, one can expect polish, but this collection is polished to death. These Lennon, McCartney and Harrison gems are downgraded to polished glass on this EMI recording.

But wait, there is one keeper here. **Willie Nelson** manages to take the rocker *One After 909* and give it all the down-home goodness of a true country standard. Nelson, backed by Was on bass, Danny Timms on acoustic guitar, Mickey Raphael on harmonica and Benmont Trench on piano, managed to pull the song out of its saddle and leave it smack dab on the loading platform of a wild west train station.

Another highlight is a print on the disk's pullout, featuring an original John Lennon watercolor. A second print, the **Beatles** in merged line drawing, graces the back cover.

All in all, this CD is for those who have a deep love of mediocrity.

This disc will wind up with others of its ilk - in the K Mart bargain bin. This CD deserves a one star rating because any **Beatles** music is better than none.

Recall nothing new

By LEAH LAPRISE
Staff Writer

A better name for **Technotronic's** new CD, *Recall*, would have been Total Recall. The first single, *Move It To The Rythm*, is vaguely reminiscent of their earlier hit *Move This*.

With Ya Kid K on vocals, it's not hard to hear why. She should make up her mind as to whether she wants to be a rapper or a singer. Dance music with pauses for rap just doesn't work very well.

Ya Kid K sings (raps?) on only two songs on the CD, which is supposed to be a big reunion for her and Technotronic. These two songs, *Move it to the Rythm* and *It's Alright* are the only two that stand out from the rest, only because Ya Kid K's voice adds a splash of color to the otherwise dull CD.

Each song sounds like the one before it. There is no real change of beat or rythm — only different lyrics.

Don't expect another earth-shaking chart-topper like *Move This* or *Pump Up The Jam* from this CD because there isn't one here.

Each song seemed familiar, like I'd heard it before. Maybe that's because there's really nothing new.

King Crimson returns

By DAVE JOHNSTONE
Staff Writer

If you don't remember **King Crimson**, the eclectic art rock band from the 1970s, then it's time to do yourself a favor and check out this CD.

Robert Fripp and his all-star cast of musicians are definitely here to entertain on this, the latest offering under the Crimson name in nearly 10 years.

Highlights on this disc are *Sex Sleep Eat Drink Dream and When I Say Stop, Continue.* Also of note are the instrumental tracks, *VROOM* and *THRAK*.

Personnel include Adrian Belew on vocals, Bill Bruford and Pat Mastelotto on drums, Trey Gunn and Tony Levin (of Peter Gabriel) on Grand sticks and bass guitars, and guitarist, Robert Fripp, who went on in the early 1980s to pioneer bands with the likes of Andy Summers (of the Police) and David Sylvian (Japan and Rain Tree Crow).

This CD is definitely a treat for anyone who hasn't heard some innovative music in a while, and obviously a gem for diehard fans waiting for the reunion tour scheduled for May 27 at Massey Hall in Toronto.

Thorogood best when live

By SARAH MURRELL
Staff Writer

George Thorogood and the **Destroyers'** latest CD, *Let's Work Together LIVE*, is only the second live album from a band that has been playing for more than 20 years.

George Thorogood and the **Destroyers** have always been players and live is how the music is meant to be heard. Recorded over a three-day period in St. Louis and Atlanta, the CD includes Thorogood favorites such as *Move It On Over* and *Get a Haircut. Let's Work Together LIVE* also includes classics like *Johnny Be Good* and *No Particular Place To Go*. On the aptly named, *I'll Change My Style*, Thorogood slows down his usual rocking style and is terrific.

Thorogood is in his element on stage and the live performance enhances his unique rock and blues style. The title track, *Let's Work Together*, a new song, is classic Thorogood.

Jim Ladd says it best in the liner notes, "just stick your head in the speaker and put the volume on maximum."

Duran Duran has fresh outlook on covers

By TERESA ARMSTRONG
Staff Writer

Although over-synthesized and over-produced, **Duran Duran's** new CD *Thank You* provides a fresh outlook on old songs.

The band has put together a compilation of their 'favorite' songs. The variety of the tunes chosen is the most unlikely; the album includes everything from **Public Enemy** (*911 is a joke*) to **The Doors** (*Crystal Ship*).

The first track **Grandmaster Flash** and **Mele Mel's** *White Lines* is destined to become a club hit with its catchy 'Rang-dang-d-d-ding-dang' intro.

The remakes of **Lou Reed's** *Perfect Day* and **Bob Dylan's** *Lay Lady Lay* results in a smooth, tranquil blend; perfect for your slow song mix.

Watching the Detectives (**Elvis Costello**) is slightly boyish, but jazzy. And *Crystal Ship* lacks any of **Jim Morrison's** harsh edges that makes it so attractive.

As for **Public Enemy's** *911 is a joke* and **Led Zeppelin's** *Thank You* it's a nice try, but sorry, no comparison.

Noteworthy is the cover, a black and white collage of Rock n' Roll's stars. And the insert is a eye-catching portfolio of psychedelic designs.

Duran's fans will be impressed by the panorama of the songs picked to reproduce. As for others, you'll want to settle with the originals.

CD used as sleep aid

By MILAN DURCO
Staff Writer

6 Days, 6 Nights. Original music from the film by Diane Kurys composed by Michael Nyman.

Solitude is an arousing play of violins enhanced by cello and bass. It is exactly as it sounds, like a beautiful melody.

Most melodies played by violins, cello, and bass can and will put you to sleep or in a coma. It almost happened to me.

A New Beginning, brings with it an orchestra of musicians. The Michael Nyman Band can bring exhilaration to classical music listeners. While taking in this array of harmonious sounds I wished for an explosive device to destroy the deadly virus seeping from my stereo system.

If you appreciate the delightful sound of classical piano with the accompaniment of orchestra, this CD will be a great joy for you and your cat to listen to.

If you're like me, then you'll feel compelled not to mention this CD to anyone. You know the rollercoaster of treacherous torture you had to go through listening to it.

EMF headed down

By JIM McNEIL
Staff Writer

Throw together a tin whistle from **The Troggs**, a riff or two of **Beastie Boys**, some bad (not good) funk from the 70s, a dash of **Porno for Pyros**, a smattering of **Pet Shop Boys**, a symphony orchestra and what do you get? The new **EMF** CD *Cha Cha Cha.*

EMF is moving in a new direction; unfortunately it seems to be towards the bottom of the charts.

On *Cha Cha Cha*, the band desperately tries to harden their image, but falls well short of the mark.

If hard-core **EMF** fans — a contradiction of terms? — were expecting another *Unbelievable*, they will be greatly disappointed.

The CD's many references to drugs and alcohol explain how the band spent their profits from the *Schubert Dip* CD.

I thought the CD was very dark and I don't think it will be received very well by the bubble-gum chewers who were EMF's fans.

All the songs seemed to be missing something (talent?).

So if you are looking for a harmless synth-pop dance CD to buy, you'll have to look elsewhere.

New Faith No More CD geared toward mainstream

By JEFF MacKAY
Staff Writer

Faith No More have returned with a new album well worth the three-year wait since their last recording.

The San Francisco band returns with *King For A Day, Fool For A Lifetime,* their best album to date.

The sprawls cover a great number of musical styles from jazz, to funk, to hardcore rock, that all fit together in one nice package. **Faith No More** have found the groove that they fit in and it suits them well.

Perhaps the dismissal of guitarist Jim Martin in 1994 led to a better working group for this album. The new guitar lines seem to fit with the band better and create a more solid sound.

The band is still fronted by vocalist Mike Patton, Billy Gould on bass, Roddy Bottum on keyboards, and Mike Borden on drums. All guitar played on the album is done by guest Trey Spruance.

The album strongly resembles the 1991 release of **Mr. Bungle,** Patton's high school band. **Mr. Bungle** was an underground hit that had every style of music blended together to create one of the most incredible albums of all time.

Faith No More has captured the sound of **Mr. Bungle** and mixed it with their own to release 1995's best album to date.

The new album has songs that give you an enjoyable kick in the teeth and and then switch to almost achingly beautiful love songs.

Patton's lyrics always make **Faith No More**'s music more enjoyable and he has outdone himself this time. Patton has a fetish for dark humor in his lyrics that make one question his sanity with lines like *"It's always funny until someone gets hurt, and then it's just hilarious."*

This latest album should be more receptive to the mainstream audience that seems to be purchased by the so-called alternative crowd.

Faith No More is starting their tour to support their new album and will play at the Warehouse in Toronto on May 22.

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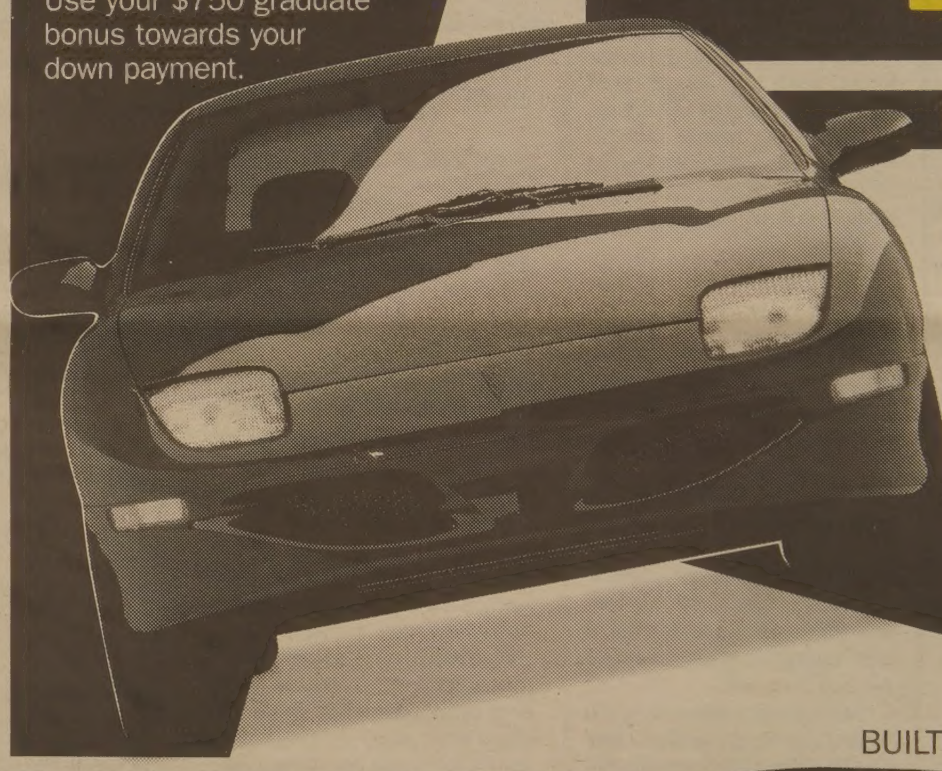

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MOVIES AND MUSIC

Summer Releases

By SALVADOR RAMOS Jr.
Staff Writer

The summer releases are ready to open and all the major studios have a line up of their own. Some very much anticipated movies, and some small films.

ALLIANCE

Johnny Mnemonic — May 26
starring -Keanu Reeves

BUENA VISTA

Crisom Ties — May 12
starring -Denzel Washington
-Gene Hackman

Mad Love — May 26
starring -Drew Barrymore
-Chris O'Donnell

Pocahontas — June 23
Walt Disney's summer full animated feature

Judge Dredd — June 30
starring -Sylvester Stallone

Dead Presidents — June
From the Hughes brothers, creators of Menace II Society

Operation Dumbo Drop — July
Walt Disney's live feature
starring -Danny Glover
-Ray Liotta
-Dennis Leary

COLUMBIA/TRISTAR CORP.

Forget Paris — May 19
starring -Billy Crystal

First Knight — July 7
starring -Sean Connery

METRO GOLDWIN MAYER

Fluke — June
starring -Matthew Modine
-Eric Stoltz

Species — June
starring -Michael Madsen
-Natasha Henstridge
-Ben Kingsley

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Braveheart — May 24
starring -Mel Gibson
-Sophie Marceau
-Patrick McGoohan
-Catherine McCormack

Virtuosity — Sometime in Summer
starring -Denzel Washington
-Kelly Lynch

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

French Kiss — May 5
starring -Meg Ryan
-Kevin Klein

Die Hard 3: Die Harder — May 19
starring -Bruce Willis
-Jeremy Irons
-Samuel L. Jackson

Mighty Morphin Power Rangers — June 30
(the movie)

Nine Months — July
starring -Hugh Grant
-Tom Arnold

UNIVERSAL PICTURES

Casper — May 26
The new Steven Spielberg movie

Apollo 13 — June 30
starring -Tom Hanks
-Kevin Bacon
-Gary Siniese
-Ed Harris

Waterworld — July 28
starring -Kevin Costner
-Dennis Hopper

WARNER BROTHERS

A Little Princess — May 19
From the creators of The Secret Garden

The Bridges of Madison County — June
starring -Meryl Streep
-Clint Eastwood

Batman Forever — June 16
starring -Val Kilmer
-Jim Carrey
-Nicole Kidman
-Tommy Lee Jones
-Chris O'Donnell

'We don't like to be defined'

By WILL WEBSTER
Staff Writer

Bluegrass, blues, country and stripped-down rock 'n' roll cooked up in a Celtic stew pot. There really is no other way to describe Vancouver's **Hard Rock Miners** and their second CD, *Rock 'n' roll Welfare*, on A&M Records.

This is exactly the CD to cure your school-week blues. It is "let's crank up the guitars, tap the keg, and get saved" music.

Neither the new CD nor the band are easy to peg.

"We don't like to be defined," said mandolin player Paul Gould, following a performance at Joe's Place in Port Colborne. "Everyone wants to pigeon hole you, but we'd rather not. We all have influences, and it comes out in the music."

They have the sweetness of a bluegrass band with strong mandolin from Gould and fiddle parts from Pierre Lumoncel.

There is the raw nature of the blues, with whiskey-tainted vocals from Heather Michelson, and the searing heat of straight-up rock 'n' roll from bassist Keith Rose, drummer Glenn Eidsness and guitarist Rob Thomson.

"There's a lot of creative freedom," said Michelson, who likes the band's songwriting diversity. "Someone comes up with a song and we get to do what we want with it. We are all really free to make up our own parts."

In some circles, the **Miners** may be called "alternative," an alternative to almost anything.

The new CD manages to convey the urgency of the **Miners'** live performance. In concert, they are bouncing and jumping and raging on stage, even for the rare slow song.

"We sit eight hours in a van getting to know what each other smells like, then we hit the stage," said Gould. "That's what makes it all worthwhile."

Luke Lumoncel, Heather Michelson and Paul Gould — building a Hard Rock Miner audience.

Photo special to Niagara News

Michelson agrees. There are nights when the band has survived on burgers and are dog-tired right up until they hit the stage.

"These are great guys," she said. "They pump you up. I find it hard to get rolling sometimes but you make friends with a few people in the audience and it becomes fun."

If there is a downside to this CD, it is that it doesn't give listeners a break. From the opening drumbeat, all 13 songs are served straight-up at nerve-wracking speed.

Lyrically, they poke fun at love's lament, *"come on girl now open your eyes, break it clean don't want no ties, take your claws right out of me,"* or whine in the absence of a good place to drink, *"Oh I can think of a joke, I can think of a lie, I can think of a thousand girls if I try, but I can't think of a place I'd rather fall, than down in the docks by Delaney's Beer Hall."*

For fun they stitch the two together, as in Thomson's *Ruby Red, "you been to sea with all your passion, you've been to bars and never left, if you could stagger any closer, you breath would surely wake the dead ... my Ruby Red."*

Playing to the small but appreciative house at Joe's Place on April 8 was part of a **Miners'** plan to build an audience east of Winnipeg — out west they fill every house. How well the plan is working will be revealed when they return to Ontario in May.

The CD and the band get four stars, fives are rare.

Tea Party begins world tour

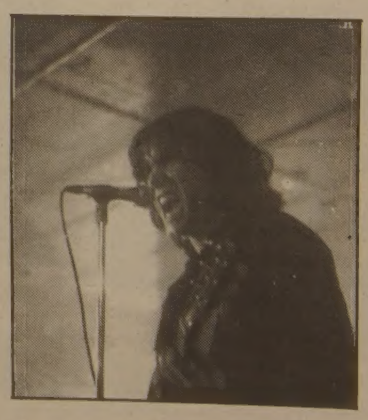
By JOHN ROUSSEL
Staff Writer

The **Tea Party** played a "warm-up" show at Front 54 on April 7 to begin their world tour.

The Windsor band consists of Jeff Burrows on drums, Stuart Chatwood on bass and Jeff Martin on guitar and vocals. They formed in 1990 and signed a record deal with EMI Music Canada in 1993. The first alblum they released, *Splendor Solis*, went platinum certified in Canada.

They won several awards because of this album, including the People's Choice/MuchMusic Best Canadian Group Award of 1994.

The **Tea Party's** new album *The Edges of Twilight* was released at the beginning of this year. It went gold certified in Canada in the first week of its release, said Rob Chubey, a promotion representative for EMI.



Jeff Martin of the Tea Party performs at Front 54.

Photo by Jeff MacKay

"Both musically and lyrically *The Edges of Twilight* is a plunge into the twilight of the psyche," said Martin in a press release.

In order to promote their new album, they are going on a world tour. They will play in Australia, New Zealand, travel to Europe and end the tour in North America.

"These have basically been warm-up shows," said Burrows, referring to the shows in Thorold and Brantford.

The first release from the album is *Fire in the Head.*

With files from Jeff MacKay.

SPORTS

Despite record, Conlon remains 'optimistic'

By BRIAN BOWMAN
Staff Writer

Randy Conlon can feel the pressure.

Conlon, 28, led the Niagara College Knights men's basketball team to a disappointing 4-8 regular season record that saw his team become ineligible for post-season action in his first season as head coach.

Conlon, however, remains optimistic as he prepares to mould his basketball team into a club capable of winning on a more consistent basis.

"We had a very talented, but inexperienced team," Conlon said. "We lost to teams that we should have beat[en] which ultimately cost us a playoff spot.

"With 11 freshmen on the roster, including four starters, we had a team that simply did not know how to win at the college level. Next season we'll have a year under our belts, and hopefully we'll learn what it takes to win."

Conlon said he enjoyed the transition from coaching high school ball for five seasons at Niagara District Secondary School in Niagara-on-the Lake, to his new position at Niagara College where he finished his career as a player in 1986.

"I enjoy coaching here at the college level because high school players just aren't as dedicated as college players who put forth a more committed effort to winning," said Conlon, who is the college's media liasion officer in the marketing and communications department.

"The kids who have made it to this level want to play, and have the basketball talent that enables myself to concentrate more on game strategy rather than teaching them the skills of the game," said Conlon.

Conlon says that, he too, is guilty of being inexperienced and hopes to improve on some aspects of his coaching philosophy in the 1995-96 season.

"My biggest weakness as a coach is that I get too close to my players, which is something I'm going to have to work on for next season," said Conlon.

"There's a fine line between a coach and a friend, and if a coach crosses that line, then you run the risk of losing the respect of your players or being taken advantage of.

"Last season I tended to cross that line, partly because of my age and partly because of my like for people — I have to let the players understand who their coach is," Conlon said.

Conlon's interest in people and his love of basketball is what drives him to build a successful program.

"I absolutely love coaching and being around the game of basketball. I have to love this game considering all the time I put into it," said Conlon. "If it was my choice, coaching here at the college would be a full-time job so that I could spend more time watching game tapes and recruiting high school players.

"When I decided to take this job as coach, I wanted everyone to know that I wanted to develop a successful basketball program in four to six years, as opposed to simply putting a team on the floor.

"That's very important to me. If I'm going to do something like this, then I'm going to bust my ass to do the best job that I can do," said Conlon.

Conlon says the success of any college sports program is through its ability to recruit high school players.

Based on last year's successful signing of guard Mike Hurley, Conlon is hoping to duplicate that feat with the possibility of recruiting several talented players for next year's club.

"Our first step last season in solidifying our program was the recruiting of (Mike) Hurley, who was a well sought after high school player in the province, a player who had the potential to sign anywhere else in the country," Conlon said.

"Getting a player like him [Hurley] certainly helps you from a recruiting stand-point in terms of getting future players who would normally play for a university program," Conlon said.

The Knights have already recruited six-foot-six forward, Keith Tenney, from Sutton, Ont., and have their eyes on guard Mike Pearce, a graduate from Lakeshore Catholic Secondary School in Port Colborne.

Conlon describes Pearce as a "great pure shooter", who would be able to take some of the offensive pressure off Hurley.

"With another great shooter in our lineup (besides Hurley), as a team we'll be able to pound the ball inside and if teams can't cover our big guys — then we'll soon become a dominant offensive threat."

Hockey program on thin ice

By JOHN EATON
Staff Writer

Fred Bassi, 49, of Welland, works in the athletic department at Niagara College's Welland campus.

He was head coach with the college hockey team for the first 24 of the team's 28-year history.

Currently, he's the team's general manager, working with coach Jim Beattie.

"What I enjoyed most was watching the team's develop together each year, the friendships between the players, and the attitude and the enthusiasm they (the players) had," said Bassi. "I thought it was a good character builder. I enjoyed being part of the team and being around the young players."

From 1989 to 1992, the team won three Inter-Collegiate Hockey League Championships in a row.

Bassi said the three championships were "very rewarding." During one of the championship runs, the team wasn't supposed to make the playoffs, but they snuck in, beating the first place — Erie Commuity College from Niagara Falls, N.Y. — and then beating second place Penn State from Pennsylvania in overtime.

"To me that was a single rewarding situation," said Bassi.

As costs go, the hockey program has a price tag of about $40,000 a year.

A major cost is the ice rental for practice time. However, there are other costs facing Niagara because the college doesn't have its own rink, such as exhibition games, league and playoff games. Equipment for the 22-team members, plus bus travel for league games, accounts for the most expensive athletic program at the college.

Once again, the future of the team is up in the air.

Asked if funds for sports at the college were distributed fairly, Bassi said, "I think, per person, it is not that terrible of an expense to have a program that's been going on for 28 years; however, I am prejudiced."

Bassi said the college has been fair to all sports and if the program is cancelled, he would be "disappointed," but life goes on and he will do what he can when he can.

"I would like to see the program at least have another year, so we can work out some of our financial problems and go from there.

"You don't want to worry every year about whether you're going to have a team or not. I think it's hard on everybody.

"It is hard to run because people do look at the finances, but on the other hand, it is a sport that is part of Canada and I think it is nice to have if you can do it."

Bassi said he would like to see the hockey team given the chance to do some fundraising. "That's what I would like, that chance. This last year when they took the program away, the students signed petitions (to keep the program) ... the Student Administrative Council said, let's give them a chance."

Bassi said they do have some ideas which they hope to put into action over the summer. However, before any fund-raising attempts are made, the athletic department is waiting to see how much money, if any, will be given.

"Athletics, overall, gives publicity and is beneficial to the school and playing a sport, no matter what sport it is, teaches you how to work within society," he said.

No changes in college sports-yet?

By SALVADOR RAMOS Jr.
Staff Writer

No major changes are expected in the 11 sports offered at Niagara College in September.

The only change might be if hockey is deemed too expensive.

"As far as we know," sports offered next year will be the same as this year, said Peter Rylander, the college's director of athletics.

Rylander said these intercollegiate sports will be offered: golf, touch football, badminton, curling, male and female indoor soccer, male and female basketball, and male and female volleyball.

It's uncertain if hockey will be offered next year; a decision should be made by month end. Should hockey be dropped, it will be because of "a budget reason, since the hockey team has been very successful," he added.

Rylander said there is a set budget to be divided among the sports offered. This budget is affected "by the size of the college and money available."

Rylander said he wants the students to know that "for the size of the student population, the college has one of the best variety of sports being offered.

"Niagara College has a population of about 5,000 students and we offer 11 sports. A college like Mohawk College (in Hamilton) has close to 8,500 students and they also offer 11 sports." He added "Humber College (in Etobicoke) has about 11,100 students, but it only offers nine sports."

Price of equipment, hotels, food, transportation, and tournaments have gone up, while the athletics department's budget has not, Rylander said, adding "we try our best to accommodate everybody."

He said the budget allows a tournament per team, and the size of the tournament dictates which are to be the "major sports."

Rylander said a major sport is one with more than 15 games in its schedule. The minor sports are those participating in one-day tournaments only. He added all sports are "equally" important.

On other issues, Rylander said individuals tend to have concerns. "If those teams could come and see me as a group or through the coaches, we could talk about it and consider all sides of the issue," he added.

Rylander said he talks to the coaches, but athletes are welcome to contact him for any concerns they may have "as long as it is done before April 28."

Name that Welland T-E-A-M

By JASON CHASE
Staff Writer

Since the Welland Pirates left, there hasn't been anything to cheer about for baseball fans in the city.

However, that will change this summer when Welland gets a new team in the North Atlantic Baseball League (NABL).

"The team has been to town and the stadium sold them right away, It was the best (stadium) in the New York Penn league and it's the best in the new one," said Greg Smith, a former member of the Pirates Booster Club and a member of a Welland advisory committee for the new league.

Last fall, the New York-Penn League and the Welland Pirates moved to Erie, Pa., and the Welland ball park was left empty.

"The city wants something there...and talking to the Commissioner, Ed Broidy, of the NABL, he said he had the easiest negotiation with the city of Welland to bring a team," said Smith, adding everyone is interested in the team, and many people are asking him what's going on.

"Hopefully we will have baseball...we have a nice nucleus of around 600 fans who were at almost every game, and they can build on that," said Smith. "It will take about 1,200 fans for the club to succeed."

The NABL is a five-team league that will play a 60-game schedule slated to start at the end of June, said Smith.

"The last owners were making money...if someone comes in with an open mind they can do it," said Smith.

The Welland team is looking for a nickname.

Interested fans are invited to write down a suggestion and send it to:

The Welland Professional Baseball Club, P.O. Box 154, Welland, Ont. L3B 5P2. The deadline for entries is Saturday, April 29. The winning entry will receive a pair of season tickets.

SPORTS

The NBA's most competitive playoffs in years

By JASON CHASE
Staff Writer

The National Basketball Association is ready for a new era in the upcoming playoffs, and Michael Jordan has returned with the question can he carry the Chicago Bulls to another championship?

Orlando and Charlotte have been contenders all season, but for the Hornets the championship is out of reach.

The Hornets suffered a big loss when Scotty Burrell went down for the season, while the Magic have moved up with the help of signing free-agent Horace Grant, who offers experience and leadership.

Out of these Eastern Conference leaders, look for a great matchup in the Atlantic Division with the Magic and Pat Riley's New York Knicks, again led by Patrick Ewing.

The other matchup to watch in the Central Division conference will be Chicago and Indiana with Reggie Miller looking to get some respect after a close seven-game series last year to fall a few feet short.

The Bulls seem to have a new birth with Jordan at the helm and Scottie Pippen seems to be happy as a Bull.

Look for Chicago and Orlando to battle for the Eastern Conference championship and for the Bulls to win.

In the Western Conference, look for the San Antonio Spurs with David Robinson and the colorful Dennis Rodman to have a nice fight with the Utah Jazz.

The Jazz again have the 'Mail Man' Karl Malone and John Stockton creating fabulous plays and should give the Spurs a run for the Midwest Division.

The Pacific Division could be a big battle with the Seattle SuperSonics, led by Shawn Kemp and Gary Payton, while the Phoenix Suns are led by the superb Charles Barkley.

The playoffs will be close, but look for the Sonics and the Spurs to fight for the Western Conference ticket to the finals. The winner being the Sonics.

So now it's the Bulls and Sonics in the championship with a six-game victory by the Sonics. I would have picked the Bulls, but this time around they are one piece short of what it takes to be crowned champions.

A season of chaos in the NHL

By JASON CHASE
Staff Writer

After a shortened and disappointing season, the National Hockey League playoffs are about to begin.

This season has been full of huge disappointments, such as Pittsburgh's Mario Lemieux sitting out and, of course, the lockout/strike.

The league is in limbo with only four teams taking charge. The leaders are Detroit, Quebec, Pittsburgh, and Philadelphia. Any of these teams could be the last one standing.

The Stanley Cup champion New York Rangers have played right around .500 and have begun to show their age.

The Los Angeles Kings have fallen from grace of the finals two years ago and Wayne Gretzky began shopping for a retirement home in Florida. Not even tough guy Rick Tocchet could help or the trade for Grant Fuhr.

The Montreal Canadiens have played like an expansion team and let's not forget the Recchi-trade — *oops* I meant the LeClair-trade.

The Toronto Maple Leafs saw the trading of Wendel Clark for Mats Sundin as a huge success. The Leafs also stole Mike Ridley in a trade for Rob Pearson. The team's only downfall has been the loss of their blue-line, consisting of Bob Rouse and Sylvain Lefebvre.

Glen Sather is working his magic again in Edmonton with young stars like David Oliver and Jason Arnott, while Chicago has seen Bernie Nicholls rise from the dead and Jeremy Roenick go down for the rest of the year, including the playoffs.

St. Louis has seen how Mike Keenan likes to rule with an 'Iron Fist' with the departure of Craig Janney and Kevin Miller. For the New York Islanders, the younger of the Lindros brothers, Brett, has turned out to be only a shadow of the superstar, Eric, in Philadelphia.

Detroit seems to have shaken the monkey off its back and appears to be ready for the quest of the Stanley Cup. The Flyers have taken the next step with their 'Legion of Doom' line of Lindros, LeClair, and last year's young rookie sensation Mikael Renberg.

Quebec's youth has matured, and with possible rookie of the year, Peter Forsberg, and veteran Clark, Quebec is going to be hard to handle. Last, but not least, are the Penguins without Super Mario, who have a nice mix of the old and the young ready to take the cup again.

Look for the winner to be either Quebec or Pittsburgh, but as in the past years with teams like San Jose taking out the favorites early and the former Minnesota North Stars' roller-coaster ride — anything is possible.

Even for the Leafs, right?

The Leafs new look

By BRIAN BOWMAN
and JOHN EATON
Staff Writers

The cards have been dealt, and Toronto Maple Leaf general manager Cliff Fletcher hopes his club holds the winning hand.

By acquiring the likes of tough guys Tie Domi and Grant Jennings, the speedy Benoit Hogue from the Islanders and Paul Diprietro from Montreal, Fletcher hopes to have created a Stanley Cup winner that will satisfy the thirst of Leaf fans.

But has he?

For a team that was supposed to sparkle offensively with the likes of newly-acquired Mats Sundin (in an off-season deal for Wendel Clark) and the trio of Dave Andreychuk, Mike Gartner and Doug Gilmour, the Leafs have struggled to score on a consistent basis.

Gilmour's nine goals through the club's first 36 games has been a disappointment, although head coach Pat Burns has been quick to defend his star centre's play.

One has to question if Gilmour really is a legitimate superstar like the media and fans have made him out to be.

Sundin has consistently been Toronto's best and most exciting player all season, and has lived up to his newly-signed five-year contract worth an estimated $11 million.

Sundin's breakaway speed and soft hands have made him the key figure on Toronto's powerplay which ranks 7th at 19.7 per cent through the club's first 33 games.

With the Leafs in a desperate battle with Chicago for the fourth playoff spot and home-ice advantage in the playoffs behind Detroit, St. Louis and Calgary, their poor road record (4-8-5) remains a huge concern for the Leafs.

Good teams win on the road, but the Leafs have yet to show the grit and determination outside Maple Leaf Gardens and this will hurt the Leafs' chances in the playoffs.

Once again, Toronto's hopes rest on the shoulders of Quebec native Felix Potvin and reliable backup Damian Rhodes. Their solid goaltending throughout the regular season must continue through the Leafs' stretch drive towards the NHL's top prize.

If it doesn't, then look for the Leafs to be swinging golf clubs instead of hoisting the Lord Stanley.

The return of a champion

By BRYON SOKOLOSKI
Staff Writer

Michael Jordan has returned to basketball as many people know.

There are a lot of people out there who say things like "it's about time (about his return)," "why did he think he could play baseball?" and "he should have stayed in basketball."

What some people do not realize is that they are talking about one of the greatest competitors of our time. When he left basketball, he was on top of his game and was the best player in the National Basketball League (NBA). He had just won his third consecutive championship and if he had stayed, probably on his way to his fourth. But he had the courage to leave basketball and pursue a career in minor league baseball. He stayed in baseball for 18 months and although was not a dominating player he continued to play.

Then a little while ago he returned to the game he loved so much and right away he was in the spotlight again. Everyone expected him to return to the NBA and start up where he left off. But like anyone, it is taking time to get his game back. He is still not back to his old form and probably won't be until the playoffs.

But Jordan is back. Give him some credit, he had the courage to leave something that he was so dominating at and go to something that he was only average at. Now that's courage. Most people couldn't do it. Go Bulls!

Quebec and Detroit's quest for the Cup

By BRIAN BOWMAN
Staff Writer

In a season where the Stanley Cup finalists from a year ago and the Montreal Canadiens are in danger of missing this year's playoffs, absolutely anything can happen.

Montreal's departure could be their first exit from post-season in 25 years, a span which included eight Stanley Cups, and countless battles against their rivals from Boston.

The Scotty Bowman-run Detroit Red Wings have become the defensive elite in the National Hockey League led by Mike Vernon's 16 wins, and the all-star play by 33-year-old Paul Coffey. Together, they've helped the Wings lead the NHL in goals against average, embracing Bowman's defensive philosophy, and are a solid bet to emerge as the Western Conference champions.

The Keenan-infested St. Louis Blues will be Detroit's one and only challenge coming out of the west. St. Louis has loaded up on high-priced Stanley Cup experience with the likes of Al Macinnis, Esa Tikkanen, and Glenn Anderson. Combined with the goaltending of Curtis Joseph and Jon Casey, the Blues have the potential to become a serious Stanley Cup threat.

The Eastern Conference has been a two-team race with the Quebec Nordiques and the Pittsburgh Penguins battling for the NHL's top spot.

Jaromir Jagr has made a serious run at MVP honors with his awesome display of offensive talent that has drawn raves from around the league. Jagr, Ron Francis, Thomas Sandstrom, and John Cullen have combined for 145 goals, second only to the Nordiques in terms of offensive production.

The Nords' are loaded with offensive talent with the likes of Joe Sakic, Owen Nolan and Peter Forsberg. Add the physical presence and leadership of Wendel Clark, and Quebec's 15-1-3 home record, and you have the makings of a very solid Stanley Cup contender.

Look for Quebec and Detroit to lock up in this year's Stanley Cup Final, with sincere apologies to all those Flyer fans (you just can't win with only one line).

Do you do the 3 R's? Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

By LEAH LAPRISE
Staff Writer

Teachers and students at Niagara College say they are concerned about the lack of recycling facilities at the Welland and Niagara Falls campuses.

The college does have blue bins for recycling cans however, they are not readily available in places such as classrooms, or near exits.

Trent Bosak, a second-year student of Niagara College's Culinary Skills program in Niagara Falls, says if he does not see a blue bin while he's holding a can, he won't recycle. But, he said if blue bins were located in classrooms, or at shorter intervals in the hallways, he would recycle.

Bosak says he would like to see people bring their own coffee mugs instead of using the styrofoam coffee cups.

"So many people drink coffee and tea at school, why not bring your own mug?" he says.

Brandee Carry, a first-year Broadcasting-Radio, Television and Film program student, says she has noticed Niagara lacks facilities for recycling fine paper and newsprint, and the blue bins in the hallways are few and far between. Carry says she doesn't go out of her way to recycle, but would like to see more facilities, especially for paper.

John Pearson, a student of Niagara College's Technical program, says he has noticed Niagara's lack of recycling facilities. He says he spends a lot of time at Brock University in St. Catharines where facilities are available for all types of recyclable materials, including foam, fine paper and newsprint.

Pearson says he recycles "somewhat," but would recycle more if Niagara had the facilities.

Catherine Habermeble, Niagara's waste management co-ordinator, says she can see no financial reason why Niagara doesn't offer facilities for recycling fine paper or newsprint.

Habermeble says the blue bins are provided by the provincial government through a special fund set up to encourage recycling.

Fine paper recycling is available mainly to staff. Bins are in photocopying rooms and a few offices including the Student Administrative Council office. However, students do not have free access to these rooms.

Nancy Geddie, an English instructor at the college, says she always uses the bins and goes out of her way to recycle.

"Unless it's just a single sheet of paper," she says.

A member of the college's cleaning staff, who wouldn't give his name, says the students are the reason there is no fine paper or newsprint recycling available to them.

"There have been attempts to include paper recycling in the school, but because of students these boxes had to be removed," he says, adding students were abusing these bins by putting "half-full coffee cups, banana peels, and half-eaten sandwiches" in the boxes.

Carry and Pearson say they would not abuse the bins.

Bosak says he would probably use them "if they were available."

"It would be nice if people recycled everything," says Gary Erb, a Journalism-Print program instructor at the college.

Erb says every time the Niagara News goes to print 3,500 copies are made, but he doesn't think many are recycled.

"My guess is they get chucked away," he says.

Although the campus pub, After Hours, does have a bin for newsprint, there are no bins readily available to students.

'Mud' campus changes over years

By ERIN PINCHIN
Staff Writer

Dan Pinchin, 47, was one of the first students to walk through the doors of Niagara College in 1967.

When the college opened "Hennepin Hall plus three portables were the only buildings on the entire campus," said Pinchin.

There was construction "all around, but it was pretty rural. Woodlawn Road wasn't even paved yet and there were no houses backing onto Woodlawn like there are now."

Pinchin was studying metallurgy at the time, his class was the "first three-year graduating class of the college," in 1970.

During Pinchin's second year, Mackenzie Building was built, as well as many "parking lots. The entire campus was mud." In his third year, the Simcoe and Black Walnut buildings were completed.

"It was unique being one of the first students at Niagara College, we felt important. But at the same time the school wanted the first group of students to set a good reputation. We felt pressured, but it was nothing to sweat about," said Pinchin.

When Pinchin attended Niagara, there was no pub "but the cafeteria did have occasional special events which we never went to."

Asked about the upcoming residence to be built on campus, Pinchin said it was a good idea. It would be "easier for students from out-of-town and it would make the campus more accessible to the students."

When Pinchin was a student there weren't that many out-of-town students, but there was one person from "Ottawa, who had a hard time finding a place to stay."

In the 28 years since the college opened its doors, and he was a student, Pinchin said much has changed with the campus.

The college is so much bigger now, it's "hard to believe a day-care centre is being built."

The city of Welland and the campus of "Niagara College have changed considerably" since the time Pinchin was a first-year student, he said.

Studies blooming

By LORI LACOMBE
Staff Writer

Horticulture studies are blooming at Niagara College's St. Catharines campus on Niagara Street.

Since their annual open house in March, students have shifted into high gear and are ready for the spring season.

Tom Ball, co-ordinator of the Horticultural Centre, says students are preparing for their summer co-operatives.

Co-ops usually consist of 500 hours of work in a business placement. Students work under the expertise of a journeyman horticulturalist.

"The program is broken down into a few basic areas such as greenhouse, grounds and maintenance. It's a two-year diploma program and this year there are 60 first-year students," says Ball.

He says there are 90 first- and second-year students enrolled in the course for the 1995 year.

Ball says the Horticulture program doesn't have a January-Start section as other courses do because "it was tried once and didn't work out. Only five students showed an interest."

The Horticulture Centre has a lot to offer, says Ball.

The students have seven acres of land to maintain on the campus and part of Lester B. Pearson Park is rented out for their use. The campus boasts 10,000 feet of heated, covered greenhouse area. There is also a tropical plant collection.

Ball said although there are no new events for the summer months, the students put a lot of time into the preparation of the annual open house.

Bookworms delight in donation

By PAULINE POSTILL
Staff Writer

Bookworms will be delighted with $20,000 worth of new books coming to Niagara College's libraries by September.

At the April 10 Student Administrative Council (SAC) executive meeting, a motion was approved for the donation to the Learning Resource Centre (LRC).

The books will be purchased proportionally to all campuses based on student enrolment.

"We are absolutely thrilled to be receiving this kind of support from the Student Administrative Council," said Trish Labonte, head librarian at the Welland campus.

Each book will include a dedication indicating the purchase came from a special SAC fund.

"Our average cost per book these days is about $56," said Labonte.

"With volume discounts on this number of purchases, we should be able to add a minimum of 400 new books to the collections," said Labonte. "I'm looking forward to meeting with SAC President Bren Biggs and working out the details for allocating the funds.

"We hope to begin placing orders within the next month so that the materials are processed and on the shelves for September.

"It is imperative that we provide total accountability for each penny spent," said Labonte.

Extensive studies prepare manager for new post

By LYN DUNLAP
Staff Writer

Niagara College is hiring one of its graduates. Wendy Johnson-Martin is the new manager of the Aboriginal Education Access Office. Her first day on the job was April 10.

She says she is busy settling in and is looking forward to meeting with students and implementing some of her ideas.

Johnson-Martin, 29, was born and raised on the Six Nations Reservation near Brantford. She has spent many years working with the public.

After graduating from Niagara College's Law and Security Administration program, Johnson-Martin studied with the Insurance Institute of Canada for one year. She then went to Mohawk College in Hamilton, graduating on the Dean's list from the Native Community Care program.

"My belief system is that you can do anything you put your mind to," says Johnson-Martin. "Everyone needs a challenge. Challenge is what makes life more interesting."

She stayed in the insurance business for a few years.

"I wanted to move on from there to get involved in health," she says. Johnson-Martin became a community health representative, eventually becoming co-ordinator, a position she held for six years.

Returning to Niagara College she says her intentions were to apply for courses to enhance her skills. Seeing the notice for manager, she considered her diverse educational background and extensive work experience and applied for the job.

"I saw the posting when I went to the Education Office. I read it and the description fit me perfectly in what I'd like to do and what my interests are. The writeup included some of my strengths, so I applied."

Her job involves looking at program content, developing programs and advising for educational purposes. Also, she will be working with students in the resource centre and "trying to incorporate cultural sensitivity."

One of her ideas is a mural for the resource centre wall to give the aboriginal students an exposure to native art.

She said she would like to bring in a counsellor on a regular basis. Johnson-Martin says her door is always open for students to approach her.

"I would like to see a full-time counsellor here, so if necessary, students could make appointments and know their concerns will be dealt with," says Johnson-Martin.

She said she enjoys being an active participant in various sports and spending time with her family.

"When I'm not at work, I enjoy baseball, swimming, my husband and home."

She will be available in the Aboriginal Education Access Office (Welland campus at the Simcoe building, S102), as soon as everything is organized, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Women gain confidence in technology

By LINDA MARCHIO
Staff Writer

An open house and information session for the Women into Trades and Technology (WITT) program was held during the March break at Niagara College's Welland Vale Campus in St. Catharines.

Among those attending were Dan Patterson, vice-president of Ventures, and Niagara College President John Saso.

"We're very pleased about the Women into Trades and Technology program," said Patterson.

"It's a program that's taken a lot of blood, sweat and tears to put together...a first class program that Niagara College is very proud of," he said.

Susan Kyle, co-ordinator of the WITT program, and Diane Kusiak, co-ordinator of Access to Apprenticeship Technical Skills, outlined the program and answered questions from the audience.

A variety of exhibits and work projects were displayed to demonstrate some of the program's practical applications.

Current and former students were on hand to talk to anyone wanting more first-hand information.

Kerry White, 27, of Welland, had studied photography in college and had worked in retail sales. "But those didn't get me anywhere," she said. "I was still getting minimum wage."

White has been hired by QUNO in Thorold as a laborer making $18.23 an hour plus full benefits. She attributes her success to the WITT program.

"Without the WITT program, I wouldn't have even known where to apply," said White.

Melanie Girard-Bush, 35, of Thorold, who had been a cook for 10 years, was laid off from her job after having a baby. A graduate of WITT, Girard-Bush is attending Mohawk College's Modified Apprenticeship in the tool and die program.

"Before the WITT program I had zero confidence, now I have a lot more and it's growing all the time," said Girard-Bush.

"Once I get out into the workforce, there's just no stopping. You can just go — doors open everywhere — trades are where it's at," she said.

"We need role models for women to get into trade and technology," said Saso. "It's been a male-dominated area...and it should not be."

He encouraged those in the program to pursue their education in technical fields. "One of the things that we really are short of in our technology training areas is women in those programs.

"Niagara College has lots of room for people to move into their technology programs...get into those programs because there are wonderful paying jobs out there.

"We can't supply enough people for those jobs," he said.

More women teachers are also needed in technology programs.

"When I look at our staff I am disappointed that there are few women (teaching) in those programs,"said Saso.

He said women are needed in trades and technology as tradespeople, technologists and teachers.

First-year students give Niagara News a face- lift

By LEAH LAPRISE
Staff Writer

Readers may notice a different look to the Niagara News — that's because first-year Journalism-Print program students have taken over.

There was a new masthead of the April 7 issue reading "First Edition." That's because second-year students are on a one-month work placement and first-year students have moved into the newsroom for the last two editions of the Niagara News.

Production on the first edition started April 4 with the assigning of photograph, layout and proofreading crews.

Jennifer Dickens, 20, of Hamilton, was appointed photo crew chief.

Despite having to "figure out how to do things" and having to meet deadlines, Dickens said she was "very happy" with the way the newspaper turned out.

"I'm very happy with it. The last two days ran a lot smoother than in the beginning."

Teresa Armstrong, 19, of Owen Sound, associate editor of the first edition and editor of this edition, said everything ran smoothly except for a story by Stacey Smith, which was inadvertently printed twice.

Despite the mistake, Armstrong said she was "very happy" with the way the newspaper looked.

"Everyone was co-operative, and really helped each other out," she added.

Asked about being associate editor, Armstrong said "it wasn't a big weight on my shoulders, because everyone was there for me."

Tracy Laprise, 22, of Welland, who designed Page 13 in the first edition, said she found layout "incredibly easy," but that she ran into a few problems with her page.

This is the final edition of the Niagara News until Sept. 22.

First-year Journalism-Print program students display copies of *First Edition*. The college newspaper ceases publication for the summer and will return to the news-stand Sept. 22. From left: Tracy Laprise, Joe Gallagher, Netha Neverson, Leah Laprise and Jim McNeil.

Photo by David Johnstone

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ALTERNATIVES IN EDUCATION

New courses offered for spring/fall and winter

By KATHLEEN FERRIS
Staff Writer

Niagara College is offering many new courses in the Continuing Education's Spring 1995 selection of learning opportunities.

Whether you are a first-time college applicant or a post-secondary graduate, individuals are encouraged to pursue ongoing educational activities.

The enrolment of about 20,000 students for both the 1994-95 Spring/Fall and Winter 1995 terms "remains positive," says Shirley Tomovic, a development officer in Continuing Education.

The Spring 1995 term dates are from May 1 to Aug. 19.

The Continuing Education registration requirements for applicants of the courses offered are a Secondary School Graduation Diploma (SSGD). They must also be a minimum age of 19. If the applicant doesn't have an SSGD, they may enrol as a mature student, which requires an entrance test at the counselling office.

Continuing Education is offering career-training opportunities in casino blackjack dealing at the Welland campus.

"Along with slot machine repair program, this hands-on course is geared towards a job related boost for the economy," said Tomovic.

'We're always trying to be tuned into what individuals would like offered...' Jane Weeks

The purpose in the creation of the new courses is to help better accommodate students' ongoing learning process, says Niagara College President John Saso in a message written in the Continuing Education's Spring 1995 course outline booklet.

The following are descriptions of some new Spring 1995 courses. The customer relations course is designed to investigate the changing relationship between business personnel and today's customer in a competitive market.

A comprehensive coverage of advanced accounting, coupled with international issues, is presented in a new course entitled advanced financial accounting.

Courses in computers are also available. They have the highest enrolment of the Continuing Education courses offered, says Tomovic.

A series of new courses offer plenty of opportunity to navigate the Internet.

Features of Windows 3.1 can be discovered, including the fundamentals of electronic spreadsheets with Quattro Pro.

"We're always trying to be tuned into what individuals would like offered through evening and weekend computer courses," said Jane Weeks, a development officer in Continuing Education.

Weeks, who has been employed at the college for eight years, is responsible for new courses relating to computers and business.

She focuses on hiring teachers, computer marketing and making recommendations for keeping computer labs up-to-date.

Some of the evening computer credit courses listed in the course outline booklet are offered as daytime courses. Weeks also assists in the organization of one-day vocational computer seminars.

Two campuses offer Computer Academy, which offers individuals a daytime opportunity to complete any or all of the courses for the certificate program in computer software applications in Welland and St. Catharines.

Some of these courses are offered specific to a campus, with Welland offering Internet programs and St. Catharines focusing on Microsoft Word.

Some of the courses at the St. Catharines campus are offered through evening and weekend courses. The Niagara Falls campus consists of one computer lab and doesn't offer daytime courses.

Some additional first-time courses presented in the Spring 1995 term include the business aspects of pharmacy practice and the electronic components of state-of-the-art pharmacies in the pharmacy business practices and financial management.

The pharmacy assistant course is offered through an evening and weekend program.

The Small Business Practices program course offers entrepreneurial early childhood educators a chance to discover the essentials of managing their own daycare centres.

Cheryl Bridenbaker has worked as a full-time development officer in Continuing Education for two years. In 1991, she filled the same position on a part-time basis. In 1986, she was initially employed part-time in the nursing and allied health departments of the college.

Bridenbaker's responsibilities include the planning, organizing, developing, staffing, budgeting, marketing and evaluating of the items related to Continuing Education.

The Continuing Education Certificate programs includes gerontology multidiscipline, working with the aged, activation techniques, palliative care and a social services diploma which is offered during evenings and weekends.

Spring 1995 is offering a new program called Public Relations.

Sheila Barry, in charge of general interest courses, said new courses planned for the Fall 1995 term include charcoal sketching, tole and decorative painting, arts and crafts, cutting your family's hair, professional development and modelling.

Courses beginning in the Spring of 1996 include new age arbology, astrology, meditation and yoga.

Outdoor activities planned for the Spring-Summer 1995 term include tall ship cruises, horseback riding, motorcycle safety training, landscaping, orienteering, hunter safety training, scuba diving and keelboat sailing.

Registration for these, and all other Continuing Education courses for the Spring 1995 term, began March 20. Anyone seeking more information on Niagara College's School of Lifelong Learning, can contact the Continuing Education office in Hennepin Hall at 735-2211, Ext. 7510.

Loans for business start up

By KATHLEEN FERRIS
Staff Writer

Student Venture loans of up to $3,000 can be applied for by students wanting to operate an independent summer business.

"Self-employment is a hot topic in today's society," said Steve Stunt, a business consultant at Niagara College's Innovation Centre.

'The statistics indicate why so many students are more entrepreneurial bound' Steve Stunt

Children's day camps, women's fashions, computerized drafting, bicycle repairs, batting cages and driveway sealers are examples of businesses started by student entrepreneurs with the help of a student Venture loan.

Loans are arranged by Ontario's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, the Royal Bank of Canada and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce.

"It's estimated that by the year 2000 one in two people will be self-employed part time," says Stunt.

Applicants are encouraged to develop a business idea and a business plan to ensure they have put some thought into their business, said Stunt.

Youth Venture provides a mandatory 10-hour course for students who are accepted for a Venture loan to help better prepare them for their entrepreneurship. The cost is $75.

Student Venture also provides students with a similar course for the cost of $25 offered in St. Catharines.

"The statistics indicate why so many students are more entrepreneurial bound," said Stunt.

About 85 per cent of applicants are approved and about 700 loans are awarded in an average year.

Loans are interest-free from April 3 to Sept. 30.

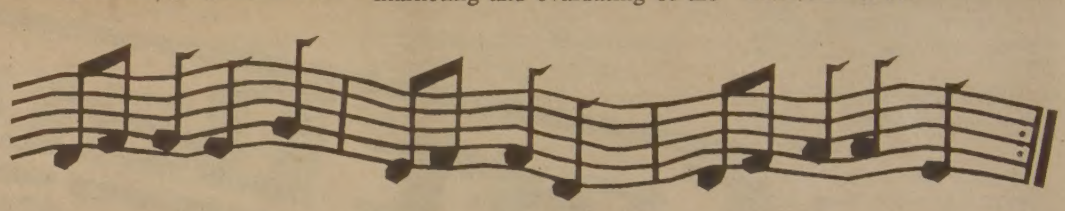
The chances for success are positive because 60 per cent of the individuals repay their loans by Sept. 30 and don't pay any interest.

"Individuals prefer to work 16 hours a day for themselves than work eight hours a day for someone else, it's more rewarding," says Stunt.

The Innovation Centres are combined at the Welland and St. Catharines campuses.

"Students are encouraged to look further ahead into the future, what better time to experience entrepreneurship than now," said Stunt.

Students with questions are asked to call the YOUTH HOTLINE at 1-800-387-0777.



CAMPUS RADIO NIAGARA COLLEGE
CAMPUS ROCK
CRNC

CRNC TOP 40

1.	Van Halen	Can't Stop Loving You
2.	Bruce Springsteen	Murder Incorporated
3.	Jeff Healey Band	I Got A Line on You
	Collective Soul	Gel
5.	The Tragically Hip	Nautical Disaster
6.	Odds	Truth Untold
7.	Simple Minds	She's a River
8.	Headstones	Unsound
9.	Live	Lightning Crashes
10.	Hootie & The Blowfish	Let Her Cry
11.	Stone Roses	Love Spreads
12.	The Watchmen	Lusitana
13.	Pearl Jam	Better Man
14.	Stone Temple Pilots	Pretty Penny
15.	Tea Party	Fire In The Head
16.	Green Day	When I Came Around
17.	Crash Test Dummies	Ballad of Peter Pumpkinhead
18.	Our Lady Peace	Supersatellite
19.	Toad the Wet Sprocket	Fly From Heaven
20.	Killjoys	Today I Hate Everyone
21.	Pearl Jam	Corduroy
22.	Rusty	Wake Me
23.	Kim Mitchell	The U.S. of Ache 4
24.	Casis	Live Forever
25.	Pearl Jam	Not For You
26.	The Waltons	End of the World
27.	Junkhouse	Big Brown Turtle
28.	Jimmy Page & Robert Plant	Thank You
29.	Van Halen	Don't Tell Me
30.	R.E.M.	Bang & Blame
31.	Queensryche	Bridge
32.	Sass Jordan	Ugly
33.	Counting Crows	A Murder of One
34.	Bonnie Raitt	You Got It
35.	Nirvana	The Man Who Sold the World
36.	Sheryl Crow	Strong Enough
37.	George Thorogood	Let's Work Together
38.	Killjoys	Dana
39.	Radiohead	Fake Plastic Trees
40.	Liz Phair	Whip Smart

THE CRNC TOP 40 CAN BE HEARD THURSDAYS AT 9 A.M.
THANKS FOR LISTENING
SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER

Cyprinus carpio has invaded

By DEAN MICHEL
Staff Writer

Swimmers, water skiers and toe danglers take notice. A danger to your well being awaits.

A freshwater leviathan of immense girth swims in Ontario's lakes. The monster, of the species *cyprinus carpio*, has a long horizontal dorsal fin, scales the size of hockey pucks and an easily identified, unnatural feature. A bright yellow weight caps the thick hook embedded in its mouth.

This Melville-inspired tale is sure to shock, horrify, and cause second-guessing amongst water lovers throughout the province.

My first encounter with Hook occurred in the Kawartha lake of my youth.

Last summer, a warm August night provided a perfect setting for the family bonfire ritual. Generations swapped campfire songs. Both young and old revelled in the crackle and snap of the fire.

Suddenly, as quick as a marshmallow explodes from toasty brown to black ash, an excited scream ripped the smoky air.

"I got one, I got one!" cried 10-year-old semi-professional angler Mark who had earlier stolen away from the sing-a-long.

By the look of the arc in his fishing pole, he had something big.

Rather, something big had him.

The campfire's lure was not nearly as great an attraction as the battle on the well-lit, wooden dock. Under a canvas of stars,

Freshwater leviathan swims in Ontario's lakes.

spectator after spectator flooded toward the lakeside expecting a glorious fight between the young angler and ferocious swimming beast.

Nephew Mark quickly set the drag on his line. The behemoth flashed its wide tail in acknowledgement of that age-old tactic and swam away into the water's darkness.

The fishing reel screamed in terror. The great fish sped off like a runaway train and took miles of line.

When Hook finally relaxed its initial run, Mark repeatedly pulled the rod and cranked the reel until the dock's light exposed a dark shadow.

This process of run and retrieve would continue for hours. The cold-blooded monster revealed little sympathy for the young angler's heart. Pleas such as: "Please fish, if you let me catch you I'll let you go, honest I will," were mercilessly rejected.

Although the evil fish would later snap his fishing line and retreat cowardly into the dark abyss, the boy's resolve remained.

"He'll be back," young Mark calmly said to me.

Were his words an assurance or dire warning?

I was not certain.

At the time I simply discarded the prophecy as a young angler's wishful thinking.

Not until two weeks later when I crept along the creaky, splinter-filled boards of that same dock, and stopped to peer into the clear water, did I understand. There, under the distant watch of Pisces, a huge native Asian fish slowly opened and shut a scaly mouth. To my horror I could see a thick steel hook protruding from this black orifice.

Cyprinus carpio has invaded our waterways and can no longer be ignored.

This summer, be safe, be cool, be at the beach.

But most importantly, beware Hook.

Adam Ant crawling back into air time

By LORI LACOMBE
Staff Writer

Adam Ant is back. Not that he has ever really been away.

Ant's latest CD, *Wonderful*, was released in late March. The title track is commanding a lot of air time on radio stations in the area. It has an easy-flowing, almost romantic rhythm.

The other songs on this CD are equally easy on the ears although *1969 Again* sounds suspiciously like an 1980's mini-pops song with its simple be-bop beat.

Image of Yourself had a lot of crooning and drawling as would

CD makes me shake my tush.

a contemporary country song. Even the guitar playing had a rockabilly feel to it.

This CD is not your typical new release. The music can't be categorized because Ant's range is too broad. He has managed to mix toe-tapping pop with a few soulful ballads, and has thrown in some country melodies to round out the collection.

Although Ant's roots are those of early 80's punk, he has successfully diversified his musical range. I found this CD enjoyable because of its ability to make me shake my tush, but I wouldn't recommend it to diehard Antmania fans.

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Niagara 'effectively' teaching students for jobs

By JENNIFER MITCHELL
Staff Writer

Port Colborne residents, Jason Hemauer, 21, Toby Richert, 20, and Laura Iannandrea, 19, say they enjoy studying at Niagara College.

However, Dan Priest, 20, of Port Colborne, said Niagara was a bad choice for him.

Priest, who was enrolled in the General Arts and Science program, began his studies at Niagara in the Electronics Engineering Technician program.

He quit because it "wasn't a very good program, and the teachers weren't very good either," he said. "The teachers teach what they work at, to them it is just a way to earn an extra buck."

Hemauer, in the Computer Engineering Technology program, said he has also had a "few unsatisfactory experiences" with the college. He said he had a teacher who missed classes to work, and a confusing first semester where rooms for classes were changed all the time.

However, Niagara is a good school, and he has learned a lot, he said. "We develop skills used on the job, with lots of design, practical projects and calculations. Most of the teachers are very helpful offering their assistance, even if you are not one of their students," said Hemauer.

Richert, a Business Administration-Accounting program student, said he can get a job doing "almost anything" related to accounting. He chose Niagara because it was close, inexpensive, had a high placement rate, and rides were easily available from his friends.

"I'm learning plenty to get me by in the workforce, sometimes even a little too much," he said, adding he agrees with the new government program to be implemented consisting of a Testing Board to evaluate the credentials of instructors.

Iannandrea, a Business-Retail Management program student, chose Niagara for her program which "seemed interesting."

"Niagara is close, and it was cheap enough that I could pay the tuition without applying for Ontario Student Assistance Program (funding)," she said, adding her teachers are interesting and helpful. "They're always there if you need help, and they make their phone number extension available to you.

"I think I've learned a lot, and an employer would be happy with my education," said Iannandrea.

Two instructors who say Niagara is for them are Nancy Geddie, an English instructor from Fonthill, and history teacher George Blazetich of Fenwick.

Geddie is the development officer for the Centre for Advanced Studies. She has spent eight years teaching in various programs.

Originally a freelance writer, she said she missed human contact and turned to teaching for "a regular pay cheque, health benefits and the summers off to play golf."

She ended up at Niagara because of a "lack of choice in teaching jobs, and the short distance of the school to home."

Geddie said she believes in stressing communication skills and "hopes" her teaching is "realistic to what employers will require."

Blazetich, who plans to retire this year, said he has no regrets about the 26 years he has spent at Niagara.

Although he spent one year at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont., as a teaching fellow, he decided upon a career at a college because of "the practical aspect, the tendency towards jobs, the age level of the students, and the focus students put towards their programs."

He said while the college needs a "massive infusion of money to enhance the teaching equipment, Niagara is effectively teaching the students curricula directly related to the workforce."

Marrow donor needed

By MELISSA REID
Staff Writer

Five-year-old Marisa Giansante needs your help.

Giansante is dying of Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

Her only chance for survival is a bone marrow transplant as soon as possible.

She is of Italian descent so her chances of finding a match will be better from the Italian community. However, the odds of finding a match are 20,000 to one — so many people need to be tested.

If you are between the ages of 17 and 50 and in good health, contact the nearest Red Cross Society.

All Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) branches are also accepting donations on Giansante's behalf.

Financial contributions can be made to the Canadian Red Cross Society Bone Morrow Testing, 400 King Street E., Hamilton, Ont., L8N 1C3.

Words to clean up by

By RONALD DUGUAY
Staff Writer

Pick up your own garbage.

Every day I hear students complaining about how filthy the school gets.

I hear them verbally bashing the 'concierges', saying they do not do their jobs well.

This is not so.

Our custodians do a great job here, considering the college has done their own little cleaning job by getting rid of a few of them over the last couple of years.

Students don't realize that one person can only clean in one place at one time.

I don't think they realize that we (the student body), excluding myself and maybe a few others, are the ones making life a mess for our custodians.

I've noticed, especially on Fridays, the number of copies

"Pick it up, throw it out, help them out"

of the Niagara News strewn around the college campus.

Was it the custodians reading them and leaving them there to be picked up by students?

I think not!

Is it the custodians that leave their pop cans on the stairs in the middle of campus foyers?

I think not!

Is it the custodians that smoke and throw their cigarette butts and empty cigarette boxes all over the campus grounds?

I really think not!

I, myself, have strolled down the hallways of the school and picked up garbage. I'd rather

pick up pieces of knowledge.

Garbage can be thrown away, knowledge can't.

If students want a cleaner school, then the first step to take would be to clean up their attitudes.

I know some of the students still have a hard time finding their classes, but I'm sure they pass a trash can somewhere in their lost travels.

Pick it up, throw it out, help them out.

Surely these are words to clean by.

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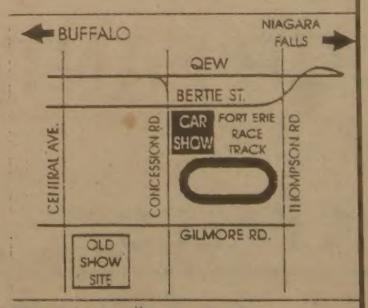

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Dreams of playing hockey can come true

By WILL WEBSTER
Staff Writer

A speedy centreman steals the puck, races over the opposition blueline and fires a quick, hard wrist shot at the top corner of the net.

The goaltender dives across the net and knocks the puck to the corner with his trapper. A forward powers in on the forecheck and is sent flying by a lumbering defenceman.

It sounds like a hockey game, and it is, with one difference. The players are on sleds and their skates are attached to steel, not feet.

The game is sledge hockey and it is played by about 40 physically challenged men and women in the St. Catharines area.

Invented in Switzerland in 1954, the first organized game of sledge hockey was played in Norway in the early 60s. Since then it has gained international popularity and is one of the sports sanctioned by the International Special Olympics.

The sleds are fashioned after the luge, constructed of steel with a pair of skate blades bolted to the undercarriage. The front end is buoyed by a bent tongue that rides on the ice.

Players propel themselves using specially designed hockey sticks. The butt ends of the sticks have metal grips, or picks, attached which the players use to pull themselves along. Puck control is achieved by switching the blade end of the stick, which resembles the blade of a hockey stick.

Players are strapped into the sleds and are required to wear a full compliment of equipment.

Widely publicized internationally, the sport is relatively unknown in St. Catharines. The game's local team started seven years ago when John Eaton, a 20-year-old with cerebral palsy, joined some friends to form a team. There are two teams, junior (15 and under) and senior, competing in tournaments in Ontario and New York State.

For Eaton, a Gretzky fan, playing hockey is a dream come true.

"Hockey is my favorite sport," says Eaton, a first-year student in the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College in Welland. "This gives me the chance to play the game I always wanted to play...it makes me feel good to say I have to go and play ice hockey every Monday night."

Eaton says the hardest thing is controlling the puck. After seven years playing and constant improvement, he has resigned himself to being a checker, a style of play he likes.

His teammate, Eric Dell, an 18-year-old centreman, says he finds "nothing difficult" about the game. He says his favorite aspect of the sport is the workout it gives him.

Dell, who has spina bifida, has made it his goal to join the Canadian national team in time for the next ParaOlympics. His coaches agree he stands a good chance of making the current silver medal squad.

The highlight of Eaton's hockey career, and many of those on his team, came when the team won a tournament in Thornhill two years ago.

According to coach Craig Blewett, the team had never faced serious competition before the tournament. That season, they had played only two "real" games.

"We'd been playing against ourselves and in some charity matches and had no idea how good we were," said Blewett, who joined the team three years ago on an interim placement from university. "We really came together as a team at that tournament."

Since the Thornhill tournament the team has engaged in a number of events, including a between-periods match at a Buffalo Sabres hockey game and a charity game against the Nevadaman Falcons, whom they defeated 4-2.

John Eaton tries to catch an opposing forward during a sledge hockey scrimmage at the Garden City Arena in St. Catharines.
Photo by Will Webster

Anyone interested in finding out more about sledge hockey should call Sport Ability Niagara.

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MUSIC, FILM, TELEVISION

Monika Deol to headline year-end bash

By DAVE JOHNSTONE
Staff Writer

Dave Rapelje is "very excited" about the "end of the year" because he's getting ready for the year-end bash at Front 54 on April 27.

Enlisted are **The Mahones**, billed as Canada's number 1 party band, **The Killjoys**, a Hamilton-based alternative group, as well as Muchmusic's Monika Deol and the Electric Circus dancers.

"There's going to be lots of prizes like CDs and T-shirts to give away," says Rapelje, manager of After Hours. "All I can say is that this is going to be one great party."

The doors open at 6 p.m. with the first band, **The Killjoys**, going on around 8 p.m. The Mahones will grace the stage around 9:30 p.m., followed by Monika Deol and the Electric Circus dancers at 11 p.m.

Rapelje says **The Mahones** are "an incredible party band that blend Celtic drinking music with new world hard rock."

Originally slotted as the headliner was the group **Pure**, but they had to cancel 10 of their Canadian tour slots because of "internal problems" by the band's management.

"They called us the day before we made the promotional posters and cancelled out on us," says Rapelje. "We were lucky to get **The Mahones** on such short notice."

The Killjoys, who won CFNY's New Music Search, are one of Hamilton's best kept secrets. Most recently, they have played at Issac's (Brock University) and at Front 54, where they received enthusiastic support from local fans.

Perhaps the highlight of the night will be a special appearance by Monika Deol and the Electric Circus dancers.

This part of the show promises to be "just as lively as the television show," says Rapelje.

Deol also hosts Muchmusic's Rapid Fax and City TV's Citypulse.

Tickets for the show are available at the SAC office. They cost $4.

Two Niagara students win Barrel Awards

By JEFF MACKAY
Staff Writer

Two Niagara College students won awards at the first annual Barrel Awards on April 8.

The Barrel Awards are designed to present talents of film students from Ontario and New York State colleges.

An afternoon screening was held at the Kingsbridge Centre for the Arts on Queen Street in Niagara Falls, Canada.

Entries were received from colleges across Ontario and American colleges in Buffalo and New York City.

"The show went pretty good," said Shawn Doney, 27, of St. Catharines, a third-year film student, and one of the event organizers.

He said about 100 to 150 people were there throughout the day. "A few local people showed up and I think they enjoyed themselves."

Doney said most of the college students were from Niagara, Centennial, Fanshawe, Humber, and Mohawk.

A total of 36 films were shown, ranging in length up to 48 minutes.

The winners from Niagara College were Paul Gardner, 23, for best documentary and best drama, and Tobias Sallewsky, 24, who received special mention from the judges. Both are from St. Catharines.

There about 15 students in the film program at Niagara. "There's enough interest to continue the awards next year," said Doney.

MONIKA DEOL

LAST CHANCE FOR YEAR END BASH TICKETS

THE KILLJOYS THE MAHONES MONIKA DEOL AND THE ELECTRIC CIRCUS DANCER

LIMITED TICKETS!!!!! ACT NOW

SAC would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who have helped us all year on various events. Special thanks to all of those involved in making our 1st Sexual Awareness Week a huge success.

As well, SAC would like to thank all members past and present of the Student Administrative Council, the Class Representatives, the volunteers who assisted in the planning and presentation of all our programs. We would also like to thank the Administration, Support Staff, and Instructors for their continued support.

Most importantly we would like to thank you, the students of Niagara College for giving us the opportunity to work for you.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER..... BE SAFE

After Hours pub gets a new look

By DAVE JOHNSTONE
Staff Writer

Do you want to be on the walls of After Hours?

Dave Rapelje, manager of After Hours, is proposing "a great idea" for students.

Any student (or group of students) who have a picture of a "special moment" will be able to have that picture permanently displayed on the walls of After Hours at the Welland campus.

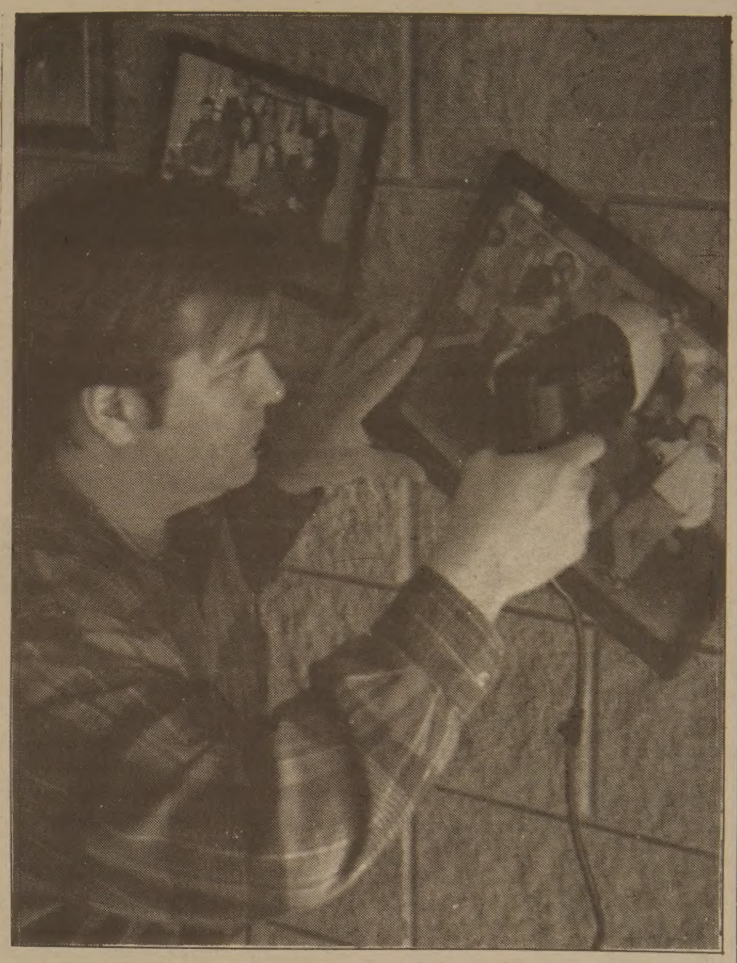
"I'm trying to promote the fact that After Hours (the Student Centre) is not just a bar," says Rapelje. "I want to give students the chance to come back years from now and see themselves as they really were."

Rapelje says he is concerned that most people think of the Student Centre as "a pub and nothing else."

"Our non-alcoholic beverage sales have been almost 1,000 per cent higher that our alcohol sales. I think that people are taking more responsibility for their actions. I just want people to see themselves and the centre in a positive light."

Even if you only have a small four-inch by six-inch print, Rapelje is offering to enlarge the photo as well as frame it.

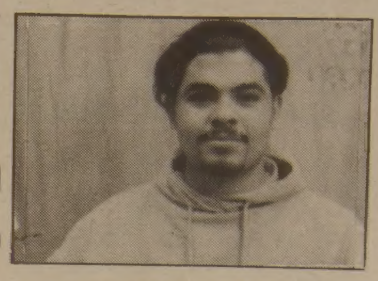
Photos must be in good taste. If you are interested, see Rapelje at the Student Centre. Deadline for photo submissions is April 28.



Dave Rapelje, manager of After Hours, puts the finishing touches on hanging a portrait.

Photo by Dave Johnstone

No dream team here



By SALVADOR RAMOS Jr.
Staff Writer

Imagine a team of players who would do anything to belong to a professional team, no matter what the cost.

Imagine individuals who want to be part of a national team, just for the joy of representing their country. Imagine players who play for the love of the game only.

The fact is today, sports are just another branch of the business community.

Sports have become a large money source for everyone involved. Among the financial benefactors are the facilities where the teams play which profit from ticket sales, food vendors, beer vendors (enough said), companies profitting from team merchandise, players with their contracts (which must always be there), and the owners who make a profit from everyone and everything.

In North America everyone can make a buck.

Now imagine any non-professional l[illegible]e game. You go to the corner store, buy something to eat and drink prior to your arriving at the field. You find a seat (no need to pay an entrance fee), and from the time the game begins until it ends you cheer your team on.

The only profit the owner makes is the money collected from bets with friends. The only thing the owner supplies for the team is the uniforms; beyond that, players have to get their own shoes, transportation, medical care, food and lodging.

These players want to be part of a team so they may represent their home-town, and play before a large crowd. No need for big contracts, endorsements, or promises. All the players want is to play the game, nothing else.

You may think this is a dream, but it isn't. In many third World countries, like El Salvador and Ecuador, this is the way it is done.

In North America, sports could never be like my dream. Anything players do leads to the promised land of the big leagues and the big contracts. There might be some who still do it for the love of the game, but most do it for the love of the buck.

Students doing hard time while criminals get a free ride

By NETHA NEVERSON
Staff Writer

Crime doesn't pay. We've all heard this at least once in our life.

I think that it does. The provincial government has taken it upon itself to raise our college tuition so it can reduce the deficit. All we're trying to do is to get an education.

What I don't understand is why our tuition should increase when we can hardly find the money to pay it right now. Why not take away some of the privileges that prisoners seem to have? They get three meals a day plus free medical care and education.

We didn't break any laws so why are we suffering? Some of us who can't afford to pay our tuition get student loans from the government, which we have to pay back with interest.

The bottom line is break the law, go on vacation while the rest of us struggle to pay tuition, rent and bills.

Our taxes should go towards education instead of making sure criminals enjoy their punishment.

Once again, the little guy finishes last.

Paying last respects

The Niagara News staff sends our sympathy to the family of Robbie Boc

Friends and family mourn the loss of Rob Boc. Boc's body was recovered from the Welland River on April 8. A funeral was held at Dixon Funeral Home and the burial was this past Tuesday in Welland. See complete story on Page 1.

Photo by Milan Durco